

DEVOTIONS

Think about devotions as a continuation of our community's worship. The following basic pattern could be one way of forming your household's devotions. Adapt as necessary!

GATHERING

✠ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time."

✠ Prayer of the Week

Promising God, you are with us when things are going great. You are with us when things are not. You are with us when we believe. And you are with us when we doubt. Thank you for your promise to love us in the midst of everything. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Take a moment to check in with each other or to use the questions below.

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What is something that made you happy today? What is something that made you sad?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Jesus appears to the disciples after being raised from the dead. They touched his scars on his hands and on his side. Jesus told them not to doubt but believe. How did you doubt someone or something today? How did you trust?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In the days of the early church, a man named Saul persecuted those who believed in Jesus. Did you do anything mean today or had anything mean done to you? What is something helpful that happened today?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Read aloud from the DAILY BIBLE READING from the front. What do you want to remember from this reading?

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Invite each person to write on an index card the things that would hurt them, physically or emotionally. Gather up cards and keep in safe place. With palms up, pray for each other's wounds.

CLOSING

✠ If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.

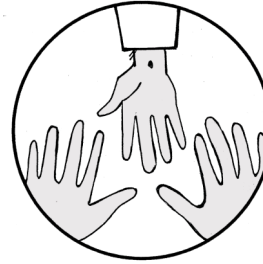
✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark the sign of the cross on the palms of each other's hands, and say, "God heals all wounds. Amen."

The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson of Milestones Ministry and used by permission from Vibrant Faith Ministries, Bloomington, MN (www.vibrantfaith.org). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

APRIL 24, 2022

John 20:19-31



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

—John 20:29

MEALTIME PRAYER

Be with those who believe, dear Jesus. Be with those who do not yet know you, dear Jesus. You provide food for those who hunger and water for those who thirst. Thank you for this gift of food and drink today. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

A question to ask as you read: **What happens in these first days after the resurrection?**

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas Doubts
Monday	John 21:1-14	Jesus Appears
Tuesday	John 21:15-19	Jesus Commissions Peter
Wednesday	Acts 1:6-11	Jesus' Ascension
Thursday	Acts 2:22-36	Peter's Sermon about Jesus
Friday	Acts 2:37-47	Life in the Church
Saturday	Acts 8:1b-3	Saul's Persecution of the Church
Sunday	Acts 9:1-19a	Saul's Conversion

If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. **Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!**

SERVICE CHALLENGE

SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.

Think of someone who struggles and doubts about faith. Find a way to share the love of Jesus with them by baking them cookies, writing them a note, or by going for a walk with them. Actions often speak louder than words.