

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

You changed the heart of the one who persecuted your followers, God. Be in our hearts; change and guide our hearts to help us follow your commandments. We need your love in our lives. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that surprised you today. Name one thing that bothered you.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Saul persecuted those who followed Jesus. But Jesus appeared to him and asked him to stop. Jesus changed Saul's heart from hate to love. When did you glimpse hate today? When did you see love?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Paul and Silas are imprisoned for believing in Jesus. But even in prison, Paul sings praises to God and even finds the time to tell the jailer about Jesus. What was a difficult or unpleasant time today? How did you handle it?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Stand or sit in a circle and pray for the person on your left. Pray silently for the person by name, lifting up their unique gifts, and give praise to God for them.

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, place your hands over a set of eyes and say, "Bless these eyes so that they may see you. 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/>.

MAY 1, 2022

Acts 9:1-19a



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

[Saul] asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

—Acts 9:5

MEALTIME PRAYER

Be present at the tables of those who need you, Lord. Be present at the tables of those who are persecuted, Lord. Be present at our table now and evermore. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

A couple of questions to ask as you read: **What happens to Saul (Paul) in each of these stories? Where do you see yourself in these stories?**

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | Acts 9:1-19a | Saul's Conversion |
| Monday | Acts 9:19b-24 | Saul Begins to Preach |
| Tuesday | Acts 9:26-31 | Saul Comes to Jerusalem |
| Wednesday | Acts 13:1-12 | Barnabas and Saul are Commissioned |
| Thursday | Acts 15:1-21 | The Council of Jerusalem |
| Friday | Acts 15:36–16:4 | Timothy Joins Paul |
| Saturday | Acts 16:11-15 | Conversion of Lydia |
| Sunday | Acts 16:16-34 | Paul and Silas in Prison |

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.

Call your local services for people with visual impairments, and ask what kind of donations they need. Donate one item (clothing, reading glasses, food) or some money.