

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

God of Greatness—From the beginning you were there. Out of nothing, you created every animal, plant and person. You breathed into creation your Spirit of life and called it good. Be with us this day as we rise with the sun and sleep with the moon above. And with each day anew, create within us a reflection of your love. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What is one thing you saw in creation that made you happy? What is one thing you saw in creation that made you sad or angry?
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** God made everything in creation from the mountains to the ocean, from the flowers to the fields. What was something you did today in God's creation?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** God promised Abraham a son. Late in his life, baby Isaac was born. God kept God's promise to Abraham. What good news have you heard—or experienced—today? What unpleasant news have you heard?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Have each person finish this prayer: Dear God, Thank you for [name something in creation]. Help me [name something you need help with]. Amen.

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 one another with the sign of the cross each other's hands or forehead, and say, "You are created in God's image. 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/>.

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Genesis 1:1-2:4a



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

God saw everything that [God] had made, and indeed, it was very good.

—Genesis 1:31

MEALTIME PRAYER

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of life. Bountiful God, we thank you for the gift of food. Merciful God, we thank you for the gift of your love. You are indeed a God who provides for your people. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is God doing in each story?**

Sunday	Genesis 1:1–2:4a	God's Good Creation
Monday	Genesis 2:7-9, 15, 18-25	Adam and Eve as Caretakers
Tuesday	Genesis 3:8-19	Sin Upsets the Role of the Caretaker
Wednesday	Genesis 12:1-9	God Calls Abram
Thursday	Genesis 15:1-6	God Makes a Covenant with Abram
Friday	Genesis 17:15-21	God Changes Abram's Name
Saturday	Genesis 18:1-15	God Promises Isaac to Abraham and Sarah
Sunday	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14	Abraham and Isaac

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.

Write a list together of each person's favorite soup and crackers. When you are out shopping, pick up these items and donate them at the food shelf.