

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

Dear God, through your son, Jesus, you give us the gift of family. We thank you for those people who are caregivers in our lives. We thank you for the relatives that have gone before us. We thank you for each other, that in our baptisms, we are one family in Christ. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name someone who made your day great today. Name someone who made your day hard.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Jesus had a family tree that including King David and Abraham. Name one person in your family tree that you enjoyed being with today. Explain why.
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In the story next week, a voice from heaven said about Jesus, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." What did you do today that made another person happy?

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 in a circle, and have each person say a prayer for the person standing on their left.

CLOSING

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

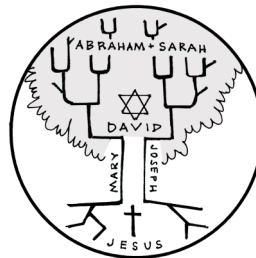
✚ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross each other's hands or forehead, and say, "Remember always that you are a child of God. 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/>.

January 1, 2023

Matthew 1:1-17



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

- Matthew 1:1

MEALTIME PRAYER

God, thank you for this meal we have to eat. Thank you for the people we share this meal with around our table. Each day, we ask that you share your blessings with us. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Something to consider as you read: **What are the people doing in each story? What is God doing in each story?**

Sunday	Matthew 1:1-17	God's Promise Fulfilled
Monday	Matthew 2:1-23	Flight to Egypt
Tuesday	Micah 5:2-5a	A Ruler from Bethlehem
Wednesday	Hosea 11:1-9	Out of Egypt
Thursday	Jeremiah 31:15-25	Comfort for Weeping Rachel
Friday	Isaiah 49:1-7	A Light to the Nations
Saturday	Luke 2:21-40	Baby Jesus in the Temple
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-17	Jesus and John the Baptist

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.

Draw your family tree on a piece of paper. Include as many family members or caregivers on your tree as possible. Hang your family tree in a place where you can see it. For one week, say a prayer for your family.