

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 angels and shepherds, you showed us so much love and humility by being born in a stable. Inspire us, and give us the strength to show such great love and humility to everyone we meet. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What is one thing that you are thankful for today?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a feed trough. This is not the normal place for the King of Kings to be born. When today have you acted for others and not for yourself? When have you acted selfishly? Be honest!
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Next week, we read the first verses of the Gospel of Matthew, a list of Jesus' ancestors. Share one memory or story about your family (even if it 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

- ✚ While Christmastime can be a season of joy, we can still become frustrated and selfish. Confess one time that you have made someone frustrated or angry—in your family or others. After each confession, everyone say, "God forgives you and so do I."

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, "Jesus was born for you. Alleluia!"

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/>.

December 25, 2022

Luke 2:1-20



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

- Luke 2:11

MEALTIME PRAYER

God, giver of every good thing, bless our food, bless our drink, and especially bless the connections between us and those we love. 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	Luke 2:1-20	Jesus: A Promise for All People
Monday	Genesis 1:1–2:3	The Creation
Tuesday	John 1:1-18	In the Beginning
Wednesday	John 1:19-28	John Testifies
Thursday	John 1:29-34	The Lamb of God
Friday	John 1:35-42	The First Disciples
Saturday	John 1:43-51	Philip and Nathanael
Sunday	Matthew 1:1-17	God's Promise Fulfilled

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.

Who do you know that has suffered a loss this past year? Christmas can be a time of mourning for those we have lost. Pray for them and then reach out with a visit, a call, a card, or even a text message so they know they are in your prayers.