

DEVOTIONS

Think about devotions is 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

Gracious God, we thank you for the Bible's story that tells of your great love and patience for your people. We thank you for all that you have done and all you have provided. Renew us, that we may bear good fruit. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that was fantastic today. Name one thing that was not so fantastic today.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** The prophet, Isaiah, writes about how God loves and tends to God's people, the vineyard, so that they can "bear fruit" in the world. In what ways, do you "bear fruit" in your home, at school, work, or in the community today? Did you help your neighbor, friend, or co-worker? Did you volunteer somewhere? Did you give someone a hug who was sad?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** King Josiah cleaned up the temple, and when they did, they found an old scroll containing God's Word. Sometimes we put God's Word away, and we forget to read the Bible. What is one way you can remember God's story today (or tomorrow)?

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, Help me to [name one thing you would like God to help you with this week]. Amen.

CLOSING

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

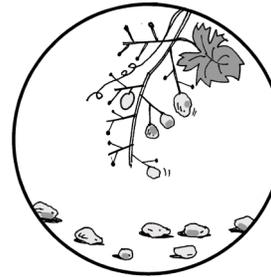
✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross each other's hands or forehead, and say, "You have been created to bear good fruit. Go and love today. 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/>.

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- Isaiah 11:1

MEALTIME PRAYER

God, you gather us together to eat, drink, and share our lives with each other. We thank you for your gifts that nourish our bodies and bring joy to our souls. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: Who are the people in the story? Why do you think their stories were recorded?

Sunday	Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5	Israel, God's Vineyard
Monday	2 Kings 18:1-8	King Hezekiah Reigns
Tuesday	2 Kings 18:13-18	The Assyrian Attack
Wednesday	2 Kings 18:28-37	The Assyrians Challenge God
Thursday	2 Kings 19:1-2, 5-7, 29-37	Jerusalem Is Saved
Friday	2 Kings 20:1-11	Hezekiah's Sickness
Saturday	2 Kings 21:1-9	A Bad King
Sunday	2 Kings 22:1-10	Josiah Finds the Scroll

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.

With Thanksgiving approaching in the United States, it is very possible that there will be plenty of opportunities to be "good fruit." Be aware and responsive. Can you donate food to a food shelf? Or help with a meal?