

## 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

Please, God, count us among your disciples, that we may hear your word. Have it sink deep into the soil of our hearts, and may it bear abundant fruit in our lives and in the lives of others. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that helped you grow in some way today. Name one thing that did not help you grow.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus connects what happens to each seed with the circumstances that we might encounter in our daily lives. Each day, talk about how each person might have experienced: the path, the rocks, the thorns, and the good soil throughout their day.
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Did you see or do something amazing today? What was it? Why was it amazing?

### DAILY BIBLE READING

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

### PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Do a growing prayer: First, say a prayer while sitting on the ground. Second, say a prayer while kneeling. Finally, stand tall and say one last prayer together.

### 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 the seed of God's word. Go forth and grow! 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](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

JANUARY 14, 2024

Mark 4:1-34



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

- Mark 4:20

### MEALTIME PRAYER

God, you cast the seeds onto good soil, seeds that grow into the food we eat. Thank you for all that you provide for us: food, water, friendship, and family. You bless our table with your grace and goodness. Amen.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |              |                          |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday    | Mark 4:1-9   | The Parable of the Sower |
| Monday    | Mark 4:10-20 | The Sower Explained      |
| Tuesday   | Mark 4:21-25 | More Parables            |
| Wednesday | Mark 4:26-34 | Kingdom Seeds            |
| Thursday  | Mark 4:35-41 | Stilling the Storm       |
| Friday    | Luke 8:1-3   | The Faithful Women       |
| Saturday  | Mark 5:1-13  | Jesus Heals an Outcast   |
| Sunday    | Mark 5:14-20 | Talk of the Decapolis    |

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.

Pick up one or two cans of your favorite vegetables or boxes of your favorite foods and donate them to a local food pantry.