

Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

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, through our baptisms, you give us the gift of faith. Help us to have faith in you. Through new life, you give us the gift of hope. Help us to have hope in you. Through friends and family, you give us the gift of love. Help us to love you. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- 🕯 **Highs & Lows:** Was there something that you loved doing today? Was there something that you did not love doing today?
- 🕯 **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul writes the church of Corinth to remind them to have faith, to have hope, but especially to love. How did you share your faith today? What did you see today that was hopeful? Who loved you today?
- 🕯 **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Paul reminds the church of Corinth that we should give thanks to God for saving us. How did you give thanks to God 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

🕯 Have each person finish this prayer: Dear God, thank you for [name one person who loves you] who loves me. Help me to love [name one person]. 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, "Go out and share the gifts of faith, hope, and love. Amen."

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.
- 1 Corinthians 13:13

MEALTIME PRAYER

God, we thank you for this meal. We thank you for our friends and family. We thank you for all that you have given us. Fill our hearts with gratitude for your love that never goes away. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: *In what ways is Paul's letter sharing Good News with the church of Corinth?*

Sunday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The Greatest of These Is Love
Monday	1 Corinthians 14:26-33	Building Up the Body of Christ
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Proclaiming Resurrection
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-19	The Risen Christ
Thursday	1 Corinthians 15:20-26	Christ, the First Fruits
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:30-41	Heavenly Bodies and Earthly Bodies
Saturday	1 Corinthians 15:42-50	Physical and Spiritual Bodies
Sunday	1 Corinthians 15:51-57	Death, the Last Enemy

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.

Secretly pick one person in your household or a neighbor, and do something nice for them today.

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/>.

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

Victorious Lord, you died on a cross, were placed in the tomb, and on the third day you rose again to new life. You promise us that through faith in you, we have received everlasting life. Be with us from beginning to end so that we may see your glory face to face. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ✦ **Highs & Lows:** Name one victory from today, something that made you feel proud. Name one thing that made you feel defeated.
- ✦ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul writes to the church of Corinth to encourage them in their faith. What did you see today that was encouraging? Who encouraged you?
- ✦ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** God gives each person special gifts to use in life. What is your gift? Playing an instrument? Being kind? Dancing? Giving out hugs? How did you use one of your gifts 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

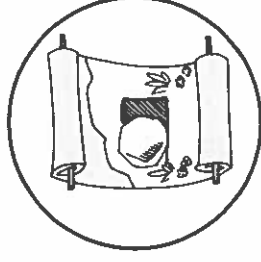
✦ Pray the Lord's Prayer together. If you do not have the words, you can easily find them online.

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 saved by the love of Jesus Christ. Amen."



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 15:57

MEALTIME PRAYER

From the beginning you loved us, God. You give us food to eat, water to drink, and your Son, Jesus Christ, who brings us never-ending life. For all this, we thank you. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is the main idea of each reading?**

Sunday	1 Corinthians 15:51-57	Death, the Last Enemy
Monday	1 Corinthians 16:1-9	Collection for the Saints
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 16:10-14	Timothy and Apollos
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 16:15-24	Final Greetings
Thursday	2 Corinthians 1:3-7	A Prayer of Blessing
Friday	2 Corinthians 1:8-14	The Travails of Paul
Saturday	Acts 2:1-4	Pentecost
Sunday	1 Corinthians 12:1-13	Many Gifts, One Spirit

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.

As a household, choose a local middle school or high school sports team. Attend one game and cheer them to victory.

DEVOTIONS

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GATHERING

✦ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time."

✦ Prayer of the Week

Dear God, you are indeed the giver of all good gifts. You have gifted each of us with different talents. Help us to use our gifts in this world so that we may be instruments of your love. Make our gifts known to us so that we can serve others in need. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ✦ **Highs & Lows:** Name something that happened that felt like a gift to you today. Name something that did not feel like a gift to you.
- ✦ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul writes that God's Spirit has given each person special gifts to serve other people. What gifts did you see today in action? Did you see someone help another person? How did you share your gifts 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

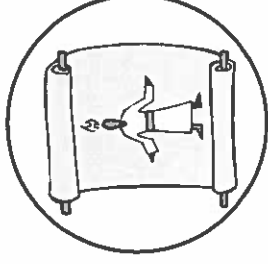
✦ Have each person finish this prayer: Dear God, I am good at [name one thing you are good at]. Help me with [name one thing you are not good at]. Amen.

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, "Go and share your gifts with those you meet today. Amen."



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- 1 Corinthians 12:7

MEALTIME PRAYER

God, you give us the best gifts. Some people have a gift of listening. Some people have a gift of making others laugh. Some people have a gift of making others feel loved. Whatever our gifts, we thank you for them. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: What is the point or gift of each reading?

Sunday	1 Corinthians 12:1-13	Many Gifts, One Spirit
Monday	1 Corinthians 12:14-26	One Body, Many Members
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:27-31	You Are the Body of Christ
Wednesday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Thanksgiving for Faith
Thursday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Saved by Grace through Faith
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22	Made One in Christ
Saturday	Ephesians 6:10-17	The Armor of God

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SERVICE CHALLENGE

SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.

Have everyone from your household (or extended family or friends) place their names into a hat. Each person draws one name and plans a special gift for their person sometime during the week. The gift cannot cost money, it does not need to be a physical object, and no one can draw their own name. Reveal who has whose name at the end of the week.