



December 17, 2017

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Spoken God, your word is life. Teach us to use it wisely and powerfully for the fulfilling of your will on earth. In the name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.



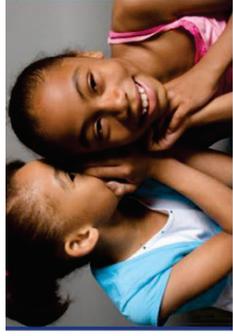
Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Isaiah's eloquent prophecy rolls off the tongue like poetry. But more than just beautiful words, it paints a vivid illustration of a world restored, and good that triumphs over evil.



Word Accomplishes God's Purpose



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What kinds of words do you speak? Are your words angry, gentle, spiteful, generous, bitter, meaningful? What do your words say about you?

Wonder: How does a word "accomplish that which I purpose"? (Go out into the world and return full.) Just how powerful are words?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless your words going out and coming in. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Create a "bitter words" jar. Decide on an amount of money each member of the household will put in for every time they swear, speak words that sting, are bitter, or are ungrateful. Decide together how you will use the money collected – perhaps give it away!



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Sunday, Isaiah 55:1-11, Word Accomplishes God's Purpose
Monday, Isaiah 40:1-11, God's People Are Comforted
Tuesday, Isaiah 53:2-12, The Suffering Servant
Wednesday, Isaiah 57:14-21, A Promise of Help and Healing
Thursday, Isaiah 59:1-8, Injustice and Oppression to Be Punished
Friday, Isaiah 61:1-11, The Good News of Deliverance
Saturday, Isaiah 65:17-25, The Glorious New Creation