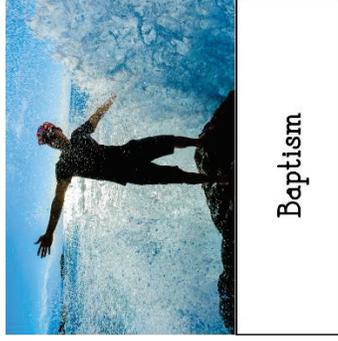




August 13, 2017

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



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

Holy Lord, we offer ourselves to you, and you claim us as your own. Make of our lives a never-ending testimony to your goodness and mercy, which are ours through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



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

³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." (Acts 2:38-39)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The world's powers bluster on about their own importance, and why you should fear them. God sits back with an immovable calm and enduring authority—the kind that stops armies in their tracks.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

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

What does baptism mean to you? If you have been baptized, how does it shape your life? If you have not been baptized, is it something you desire for yourself? Why or why not?

Wonder: Does baptism change you? If so, in what ways? In what ways are you unchanged?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God shape you in God's image. Amen.



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

If you have not been baptized, write a short story of who you are. Write a short story of who you might be if you got baptized. Is baptism important to you? Why or why not?

If you have been baptized, pull out photos or memorabilia from your baptism. Share the story of your baptism with someone.



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

Sunday, Psalm 46, Acts 2:37-42, Baptism
Monday, Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus Commissions the Disciples
Tuesday, Mark 16:14-18, Jesus Commissions the Disciples
Wednesday, John 1:29-34, The Lamb of God
Thursday, Acts 8:26-40, Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch
Friday, Acts 9:1-19, The Conversion of Saul
Saturday, Acts 16:16-40, Paul and Silas in Prison



August 20, 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.

Lord of freedom, we are no long enslaved to sin. Inspire us to live as children forgiven, freed to share the story of our deliverance and invite others into it, for the sake of Jesus, Amen.



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

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The place where God dwells defies description. It is a refuge like no other, a sanctuary of grace and an endless source of strength. Such a home would be the fulfillment of our every desire. Guess what? It's already ours!



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

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

What are some traits or habits you wish you could change about yourself? Why? How might you make changes so that you could live a new kind of life?

Wonder: Does God love the baptized more than others? Why or why not?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you in your dwelling places. Amen.



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

God's home is filled with love, peace, justice, and hope. Some do not have homes like God's. Donate time or money to an organization that helps people find shelter, love, peace, justice, or hope.



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

Sunday, Psalm 84, Romans 6:1-11, Baptism
Monday, Romans 8:12-17, Heirs with Christ
Tuesday, Galatians 4:1-7, Heirs with Christ
Wednesday, Titus 3:1-8, Heirs with Christ
Thursday, Genesis 1:1 – 2:4, Created in God's Image
Friday, Psalm 8
Saturday, Psalm 139