

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

God, you are the solid rock that we can build our faith on. We seek your shining light in the cracks and crevices of our lives, knowing that you are with us in the pits of life. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ? **Highs and Lows:** Name one thing that was hard for you to do today. Name one thing that was good for you to do today.
- ? **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Joseph found himself in many hard situations. But there is one good thing that happened in the story of Joseph: God was with him no matter what. Can you think of a time when you were in a hard situation? How did it end? Did you feel God's presence with you?
- ? **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** The Israelites are crying out to God. They have gone from foreign neighbors in a Egypt to Pharaoh's slaves. When was the last time you cried?

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 together by each person finishing the phrase: Dear God, help me when [fill in the blank]. 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

Have each person make a hard fist to represent the hard situations we often find ourselves. Tracing a cross on each fist say: "**What seems hard God turns into good**"

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/>.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today." - Genesis 50:20

MEALTIME PRAYER

For the hands folded in prayer, we thank you God. For the grains of wheat that we are about to eat, we thank you God. For the family who has gathered together today, we thank you God. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Consider these questions as you read: **Who are the main characters? What happens to them? Who are you most like?**

Sunday	Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34 50:15-21	Joseph: The Promise Threatened
Monday	Exodus 1:8-22	The Israelites are Oppressed
Tuesday	Exodus 2:1-10	The Birth and Youth of Moses
Wednesday	Exodus 3:1-12	Moses and the Burning Bush
Thursday	Exodus 4:1-17	Moses' Miraculous Power
Friday	Exodus 7:14-17; 8:5-6, 16-17, 20-21; 9:1-3, 7	Plagues on Egypt
Saturday	Exodus 9:8-9, 22-23; 10:1-2, 22-24, 11:9-10	More Plagues
Sunday	Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8	The Promise of Passover

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.

This week strive to say one "good" compliment to someone new each day.