

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 who remembers, loves, and delivers God's people from all harm. God who reaches, teaches, and preaches when golden calves sound the alarm. God who engages, wages, and changes to care for God's people and all their charm. For who you are, God, we give thanks. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ? **Highs and Lows:** What or who distracted you at work, school or home today?
How were you a distraction when someone else was trying to work, study or play?
- ? **Thinking About This Week's Story:** God became angry when the Israelites started worshipping a golden calf. They were not worshipping God! God wants God's people to put God first, before anything else. What are some modern day distractions that get in the way of us putting God first in our lives?
- ? **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Hannah wanted a child, and bore a son, named Samuel. Because of this, she sings a song of praise to God. What makes you want to dance and sing before God?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ For two minutes, turn off all distractions and lights. Say a quiet prayer at the end of the time.

CLOSING

- ✠ If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.
- ✠ **Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share**
Hold hands out palms up, and say, "With these hands ready to serve, send us out, God, with love and care"

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/>.

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Exodus 32:1-14



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" - Exodus 32:13.

MEALTIME PRAYER

God of Goodness, You lead your people to the promised land — a land full of milk, honey, and figs. Today, you have lead your people to this table — a table full of food and drink. We ask that you be with us as we eat and be with those who are hungry. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read, ask yourself: What is God doing in each of these stories?

Sunday	Exodus 32:1-14	The Israelites Forget God's Promise
Monday	Exodus 32:15-20; 34:1-10	Moses Makes New Tablets
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 1:19-33	Israel's Refusal to Enter the Land
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 1:34-40; 2:1-8	Israel's Years in the Desert
Thursday	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	The Great Commandment
Friday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's Call to Joshua
Saturday	Joshua 23:1-15	Joshua's Wisdom to the People
Sunday	1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10	Samuel is Promised to God

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.

Like the Israelites, it is easy to get distracted with other things. Pick a night this week to turn off all electronics and do something together as a family (talk, cook, or play together). Let your service be to one another.