

God's Story Our Story

Jan. 1, 2017



5 simple steps to help bring your household closer to God and each other



SHARE
your highs and lows

Light a candle to help you focus this time as “God time.” **Share your highs and lows of the week**



READ
a Bible verse or story

A verse for the week: *At that moment [Anna] came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. —Luke 2:38.*

If your household includes younger children you may want to use a children's Bible story book. If the assigned reading is not in your storybook, just choose another.

Sun Luke 2:21-38 Jesus is Named and Presented

Mon Luke 2:39-40 The Return to Nazareth

Tues Genesis 17:19-24 Sign of the Covenant

Wed Exodus 13:1-2 Consecration of Firstborns

Thurs Leviticus 26:3-13 The Covenant is Revealed

Fri Luke 2:41-45 The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Sat Luke 2:46-52 Jesus Teaches in the Temple

Sun Luke 3:1-22 Proclamation of John the Baptist



TALK
about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows. More discussion questions are on the back side.



PRAY
for one another's highs and lows

A prayer for the week: O Lord, sometimes we encounter you in unexpected places. May we meet you with joy and honor you in our speaking and acting. In your holy name we pray, Amen.



BLESS
one another

Make the sign of the cross,
“You belong to God, we belong to each other”

More resources for being the church at home this week

Only eight days old, and Jesus is already making waves in the temple. Two long suffering servants, Simeon and Anna, are about to have the moment for which they have spent their lives waiting.

A meal time prayer:

God the Provider—You gather your hungry people and feed us with your grace and forgiveness. You shape us in your love so that we can be family to one another. You send us into the world to reach out to others with kindness. Amen.

More questions for conversation:

1. Where do you see Jesus in the world? Where would you like to see Jesus in the world?
2. What's the meaning of your name? Do you have a title or an identity? How does your name, title, or identity shape how behave in the world? How does it shape how people treat you? How can you honor your family name? How can your name honor you?
3. Simeon and Anna presented Jesus in the temple. They praised God because Jesus was the promised child that would save the world. Would you be excited to meet the savior of the world? How do you praise God?

Ideas for putting faith in action:

By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive.

1. Volunteer to work in your church's nursery. While you are there, pay attention to each child. Get to know their name and who their parents are. If they are infants, sing to them. If they are toddlers, play with them. If they are preschoolers, find out their favorite color, animal, and song. Praise God for the gift of children.
2. Donate a new or gently used toy to your church nursery.

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