

God's Story

Our Story

Dec. 11, 2016



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



SHARE
your highs and lows

During this season of Advent you may want to use an advent wreath with four candles. If so light the three candles this week.



READ
a Bible verse or story

A verse for the week: *For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.* Isaiah 61:11

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 Isaiah 61:1-11 Isaiah's Prophecy of Hope
Mon Leviticus 25:8-12 The Year of Jubilee
Tues Genesis 1:1-5 The Spirit of Creation
Wed Isaiah 42:1-9 A Light to the Nations
Thur Zechariah 9:9-17 The Coming Ruler
Fri Luke 1:5-24 The Birth of John Foretold
Sat Luke 1:57-80 Mary and the Hope of the Messiah

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

A prayer for the week: Lord, clear a path for justice for those who have been oppressed. Be with us today so that we can keep our hopeful hearts on you. Amen.

Make a peace sign:
"May you be filled with peace and share it with others"

More resources for being the church at home this week

Isaiah's words are music to an exiled Israel's ears. Could it be that deliverance was just around the corner? Time to put away weeping, people of God—if you only knew what goodness is coming your way!



A meal time prayer:

God of Mercy, Thank you for the food we are about to receive. Thank you for the home we have. Thank you for the people in our lives who care for us. Thank you for everything. Amen.

More questions for conversation:

God's people had been exiled, and now were returning to Jerusalem, their homeland. Moving forward, God promised to be their faithful leader by helping understand what was right and just. Do we seek to do what is fair? Do you seek God out to help you?

Is yours a God of freedom or of bondage? How does the distinction shape your worship, prayer, work, relationships, desires and ambitions? How will you speak of God to those who do not yet know God?

What binds you? What prevents you from being all that God has created you to be? What can you do this week to accept God's freedom from the burden of your bondage? Who will you be, and what will you accomplish, knowing that in God you are free to live into the fullness of who God has created you to be and do?

Ideas for putting faith in action:

By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Spend time with a close friend by going for a walk, getting coffee, or talking on the phone

Stick a wad of dollar bills in your wallet, pocket, or purse. Every time you pass a Salvation Army kettle, put in a dollar. As you do, remember God's spirit lives in you. Every positive act you do for the world helps make it the new creation God desires.

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