

Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 6:51-58	Christ, the true food and drink
Monday	Genesis 43:1-15	Joseph's brothers need food
Tuesday	Genesis 45:1-15	Joseph provides food
Wednesday	Genesis 47:13-26	Famine even in Egypt
Thursday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool
Friday	Acts 6:1-7	Deacons chosen to distribute food
Saturday	Psalms 36	God gives food and drink
Sunday	John 6:56-69	Many disciples desert Jesus

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Scripture Verses for the Week:

Speak to each other with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.

Always give thanks to God the Father for everything. Give thanks to him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Ephesians 5:19-20 (NIRV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayer for this Week:

Lord, please help me to live wisely and to use every chance I have to do good. Amen. (Ephesians 5:15-16)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord God, please fill my life with your Spirit and give me a thankful heart. Amen. (Ephesians 5:18-20)

A Blessing to Share:

May God help you to understand what he wants you to do, and give you his power to do it. Amen. (Ephesians 5:17-18)

Mealtime Refrain:

Let us thank God the Father for everything:
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:20)

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you, God, for blue skies above us, green grass below us, good friends beside us, and fine food before us. Amen



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Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What was your “high” from the last day? What was your “low”?
- St. Paul encourages us to make the most of every chance we have to do God’s will. In what ways did you do seek to do God’s will this past day?
- Think about your next week – the things you will do and the people you will see. What special opportunities may there be to serve God and point others to him?

Devotional Practices:

Ephesians 5:19-20 urges us to ‘*speak to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing and making music from the heart to the Lord, and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything*’. This week, in your household devotion times, read a favorite psalm and sing a favorite hymn or Christian song.

Service:

Have you begun putting together a “Shoebox for Christmas” as part of Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child? This is a wonderful way of sharing the materials blessings we have with needy children in other countries. Visit www.samaritanspurse.org for more information and begin gathering items for your shoebox of gifts.

Rituals and Traditions:

Spend time together as a household making up a list of your ten favorite Christian hymns or songs. Then make up your own songbook that you can use each week and take with you on holidays. Have household members help decorate the songbook with drawings and other artwork.

Parent Toolbox: Supporting Your Church’s Children’s Ministry

If your children attend a church children’s ministry program, then you can help make the most of their experience with these ideas:

Commit to a weekly routine: Help your children to be there regularly and on time. Like regular attendance at school, your children will develop a sense of comfort and belonging with consistent attendance.

Visit your children’s classes: Better still, volunteer to help. You don’t have to teach, but you can help with reading or activities. Your presence communicates to your children that what happens there is important.

Talk with your children about their involvement: Look through your children’s take-home papers, drawings, or other items. Ask about their learning e.g. “Tell me about your story in Sunday school today.”; “What did you draw and what does it mean to you?” Ask about the songs they sing, the activities they do, what they like and don’t like. Again, they’ll enjoy it more if they sense it’s important to you.

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