

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 6:56-69	Many disciples desert Jesus
Monday	Exodus 32:1-8,19-20	God's people fall away
Tuesday	Matthew 19:16-22	A young man goes away sad
Wednesday	Luke 9:57-62	The cost of following Jesus
Thursday	1 John 2:18-25	The departure of some
Friday	Hebrews 10:32-39	Do not throw away your confidence
Saturday	Psalms 73	God is good to the faithful
Sunday	Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23	Authentic religion

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Scripture Verse for the Week:

Joshua said:
"As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." – Joshua 24:15 (NIRV)

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

Prayer for this Week:

Lord, please give me all I need to be strong in my faith and not fall to the devil's plans. Amen. (Ephesians 6:11)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord, please give me the words and the courage to share your good news with others. Amen. (Ephesians 6:19)

A Blessing to Share:

May the Lord listen to your prayers, comfort you when you are sad, and save you from your troubles. Amen. (Ps. 34:15-18)

Mealtime Refrain:

As for me and my family:
We will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15)

Mealtime Prayer:

*You give us bread for living, O God.
Save us from living for bread. Amen.*

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SCRIPTURE

Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What does it mean to struggle? What struggles have you experienced in your life?
- St. Paul describes the Christian life as a struggle (Ephesians 6:12). In what ways have you found this to be true for you?
- Read Ephesians 6:14-18. What gifts does God give us to use when our faith is under attack?

Devotional Practices:

Work together as a household to draw a suit of armor, including the following pieces: belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet and sword (if you have younger children, you could play a game of "dress-up"). Read St. Paul's description of the "armor of God" in Ephesians 6:13-18 and discuss what each part means.

Service:

The apostle Paul says: *'At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people.'* (Ephesians 6:18)

One of the most important ways we serve others is by praying for them! Make up a list of members of your congregation to pray for by name this week. Place the list in a prominent place in your household or give each member a list to carry with them throughout the week.

Rituals and Traditions:

Read Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18. Talk about what it means for your household to "serve the Lord". Together write a statement that begins: "As a household we will serve the Lord by ..."

Parent Toolbox: Worshipping with Children

They may squirm, giggle, talk, and wiggle, but including your children in worship is more than worth the distraction. Here are a few ideas to help them stay tuned in.

- Ask your child to draw a picture of something he or she sees at church.
- Create an "I Spy" list with things your child can try to find during church. Be sure to include special symbols, colors, or items on display that week.
- Play a quiet counting game. Before the service, write down words such as "candles," "windows," and "church helpers," then ask your child to count each of these things and write the number down next to its name. For an older child, write a list of words and ask them to find them by flipping through a songbook or prayer book. They can cross them off their list as they do.
- For a younger child, bring a few books they haven't read often. Save a special quiet toy for church so they're excited to play with it.

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