

**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	Mark 4:26-34	Two parables of seeds
Monday	Ezekiel 31:1-14	God cuts down tall, proud trees
Tuesday	Hosea 14:1-7	Israel will be a fragrant cedar
Wednesday	Mark 4:1-20	The parable of the sower
Thursday	Genesis 3:14-24	Deprived of the tree of life
Friday	Revelation 21:22 - 22:5	Given the tree of life
Saturday	Psalms 52	Like an olive tree in God's house
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea

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**Scripture Verse for the Week:**

Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ. He died for them and was raised again.  
 – 2 Corinthians 5:15 (NIRV)

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

**Prayer for this Week:**

Lord God, I am like a seed you have planted. Help me to grow and be fruitful for you. Amen. (Mark 4:26-32)

**For Throughout the Day:**

Lord God, help me to live by faith today, not by sight. Amen. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

**A Blessing to Share:**

May God give you faith to trust him in everything and a heart that wants to please him. Amen. (2 Corinthians 5:7-9)

**Mealtime Refrain:**

It is good to tell of God's unfailing love in the morning:  
**And his faithfulness in the evening.** (Psalm 92:2)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

God has planted, God has fed,  
 Thanks be to God for daily bread. Amen

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**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is one way you have grown over the past year? What has caused you to grow?
- Jesus talked about the kingdom of God growing from a tiny seed into a large plant (Mark 4:30-32). What do you think he meant?
- How have you been growing as a child of God? In what ways are you still to grow?

**Devotional Practices:**

In 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 tells us that Christ's love "compels" or "drives" us in our lives as Christians. We live for Christ instead of ourselves, and we no longer see people from a worldly point of view. In particular, we see our fellow Christians as "new creations".

In your household devotional times this week, ask each person to complete this sentence: "Today, Christ's love drives me to ..." (e.g. do an act of service for a household member, make a new friend, share with someone else). Pray that Jesus will help you to live for him.

**Service:**

Think of some parents you know who would appreciate some "time out" together as a couple. Arrange a time to have their children at your home, so that they can go out on a date.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

Decide on a family gardening project e.g. to plant a flower bed. As a household, plan the project and collect the materials you will need. As you work on the project, talk about how you have seen one another grow as people.

**From Martin Luther's Small Catechism**

*The parables about seeds in Mark 4 describe what the kingdom of God is like. Luther wrote about God's kingdom in his explanations to the Lord's Prayer:*

**The Second Part of the Lord's Prayer:** *Your kingdom come.*

What this means for us: God comes to rule as king even if we don't ask for this to happen. But in this prayer we are asking: 'Father, come and rule over us.'

How does God's kingdom come? God our Father comes to rule over us by giving us the Holy Spirit, so that by God's goodness to us we believe his holy word and live as his people on earth now and in heaven forever.

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