

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 12:20-33	The grain of wheat that dies
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-4	God is your Savior
Tuesday	Isaiah 44:1-8	God will help his people
Wednesday	John 12:44-50	God gives eternal life
Thursday	John 17:1-5	This is eternal life
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:14-21	Christ's love compels us
Saturday	Psalms 91	God will satisfy with long life
Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

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Scripture Verse for this Week:

God, create a pure heart in me. Give me a new spirit that is faithful to you. Don't send me away from you. Don't take your Holy Spirit away from me. Give me back the joy that comes from being saved by you. Give me a spirit that obeys you.
 – Psalm 51:10-12 (NIRV)

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

Prayer for this Week:

Lord, please place your teachings on my mind and in my heart, so that I live as one of your people. Amen. (Jeremiah 31:33)

For Throughout the Day:

Jesus my Savior, please draw me close to you. Amen. (John 12:32)

A Blessing to Share:

May God give you a new heart to believe in his Son and to do what pleases him. Amen.

Mealtime Refrain:

God, create a pure heart in me:
Give me a new and faithful spirit. (Psalm 51:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, be with us in this, as in all things, for your name's sake. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

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SCRIPTURE

Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt upset or worried.
- Before Jesus' death, his heart was "troubled" (John 12:27). Could Jesus have chosen not to die? Why or why not?
- What does Jesus' gift of his life on the cross mean to you?

Devotional Practices:

Read Psalm 51 as a home devotional litany. Consider dividing up the reading as follows:

- Reader 1: verses 1-2
- Reader 2: verses 3-5
- Reader 3: verses 6-9
- Reader 4: verses 10-12

At the end of each section, invite all household members to respond together with these words: "God, create a pure heart in me."

Service:

This week, begin to create Easter cards to send to special people. Think particularly of church members who may be sick or are not able to attend church regularly.

Rituals and Traditions:

Lent is a time to contemplate the life of Jesus and our own lives as his followers. Lent begins in the wilderness and journeys toward the cross and the tomb. In preparing for Holy Week, help your children experience the solemnity and importance of this season by together creating a "wilderness box". Place these symbols in the box:

- **Sand:** to create the wilderness (Mark 1:12-13);
- **A cross** as a reminder that Jesus said that any who would follow him must "take their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34-35);
- **Stones:** symbolizing the stone tablets of the 10 Commandments or the stones of the temple that Jesus said would be destroyed (John 2:19);
- **Fabric "road" or "path":** symbolizing the journey God's Old Testament people made through the desert, and our Lenten journey;
- **Wheat:** the symbol Jesus uses to talk about how dying brings new life (John 12:24);
- **Palm or fern fronds:** added on Palm Sunday;
- **Tomb:** added on Good Friday (use plasticine or modeling clay for this);
- **Flowers, plants, and moss:** to symbolize the new life and growth that comes to us because of Jesus' resurrection.

FOUR KEYS FOR THE HOME

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