

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 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death
Monday	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18	God's covenant with Abraham
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:1-3 8-19	Abraham acted by faith
Wednesday	Romans 3:21-28	Made right with God by faith
Thursday	Mark 10:32-45	Jesus again predicts his death
Friday	Romans 1:1-6,16-17	Not ashamed of the gospel
Saturday	Psalms 105:1-11,42-45	God remembered his promise
Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus clears the temple

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Scripture Verse for this Week:

Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, Jesus said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. – Mark 8:34-35 (NLT)

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

Prayer for this Week:

Lord God, please give me a strong faith, so that I trust in you to keep your promises. Amen. (Romans 4:20-21)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord God, help me to think about the things that matter to you, not only the things people think are important. Amen. (Mark 8:33)

A Blessing to Share:

May God give you a strong faith, so that you trust in his promises and live to please him. Amen.

Mealtime Refrain:

People everywhere will remember and will turn to the Lord:
All the families of the nations will worship him. (Psalm 22:27)

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you, God, for you are good – you call, you guide, you feed. Help us to share from all we have with those who are in need. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

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SCRIPTURE

Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- When is it easy to follow Jesus? When is it hard?
- Jesus said that if we want to be his followers, we need to forget about ourselves and put him first. What do you think this means?
- How do other people know that you are a follower of Jesus?

Devotional Practices:

Set aside any mail, and take note of any phone calls you receive during the day. At your evening meals or before bedtime each night, gather together and pray for those people, organizations or concerns that the mail and phone calls represent.

Service:

Make pretzels to give away (see the recipe below)! Let those you give them to know that you are praying for them ... and then don't forget to do so!

Rituals and Traditions:

Making pretzels is a Lenten tradition. Pretzels are shaped like arms folded in prayer, and can remind us to pray to God for our needs and the needs of others. Use the following recipe to make pretzels (the recipe lists the amount of ingredients per person):

Have each person sprinkle ½ tspn of yeast into 3 tbsps of warm water. Stir to dissolve. Add ½ tspn of sugar, ½ cup of flour and 2 tbsps of grated cheese. Stir, then knead until smooth. Cut the dough into 4 pieces and roll into a snake shape. Shape the 4 pieces like pretzels, then brush them with a beaten egg. Sprinkle with coarse ground salt. Bake on a baking sheet at 425 degrees Fahrenheit (220 degrees Celsius) for 15 minutes.

Parent Toolbox: Lenten Prayer

Prayer is a traditional Lenten discipline. Here are some suggestions to foster prayer in your home during Lent:

1. Teach your children the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer and Luther's Evening Prayer.
2. Buy a beautifully scripted prayer and hang it on a wall in your home.
3. Keep a prayer jar for special prayer intentions and requests.
4. Have everyone in the household take turns praying for one of the other household members during the day for a whole week.
5. Pray each day for people who are in the news.
6. Put up a prayer whiteboard where household members can write prayer points.

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