

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 15:9-17	Love one another
Monday	John 13:31-35	A new command
Tuesday	Romans 12:9-21	Love with sincerity
Wednesday	Philippians 2:1-4	Be one in spirit and purpose
Thursday	Acts 1:9-14	Jesus is taken up into heaven
Friday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Jesus, seated at the Father's right hand
Saturday	Psalms 47	God has gone up with a shout
Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples

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Scripture Verses for the Week:

Jesus said: "This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you. The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends." – John 15:12-13 (NCV)

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

Prayer for this Week:

Lord Jesus, your love for me is so great. Help me to love others. Amen. (John 15:12-13)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord God, please help me to show my love for you by doing what you ask. Amen. (1 John 5:3)

A Blessing to Share:

May God surround you with his love, and fill your heart with love for others. Amen.

Mealtime Refrain:

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth:

Shout for joy before our King. (Psalm 98:4,6)

Mealtime Prayer:

Give us grace, O God, to be ever thankful to you;

Give us faith, O God, to always share your love. Amen

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SCRIPTURE

Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about someone who has been a good friend to you. What has made them a good friend?
- Jesus calls us his "friends". How has Jesus been a friend to us?
- How do you show that you are one of Jesus' friends? (John 15:14-16)

Devotional Practices:

As part of your devotion time this week, sing together the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (Joseph Scriven, 1855). Here are the words for the first two verses:

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Service:

Take some time as a household to write letters to those who are your special friends. Let them know what you appreciate about them.

Rituals and Traditions:

Jesus says "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12). Try some of these ways to say "I love you" to one another:

- Write "I love you" notes and place them in surprising places e.g. in school lunchboxes, under pillows or plates, in purses or wallets.
- Place a favorite flower or a small treat on the seat of a car before someone leaves for school or work.
- Leave an "I love you" message on an answering machine or computer screen saver, or send an "I love you" text message.
- Make heart-shaped coupons to give to one another, e.g. for a shoulder massage, an extra storybook reading, a walk or play together, a cuddle, an act of service.

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