

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 10:2-16	Jesus blesses the children
Monday	Matthew 18:1-5,10-14	Jesus and the little ones
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:21-33	Paul speaks about marriage
Wednesday	Ephesians 6:1-9	Instructions to parents and children
Thursday	Colossians 3:18-25	Instructions for households
Friday	Hebrews 13:1-8	Marriage should be honored by all
Saturday	Psalms 8	From the lips of children
Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad

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Scripture Verse for the Week:

Jesus said to his disciples, "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them." – Mark 10:14 (NIRV)

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

Prayer for this Week:

Lord Jesus, please take me in your arms and bless me. Amen. (Mark 10:16)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord, you are so great and mighty. Thank you for caring about me. Amen. (Psalm 8:3-4)

A Blessing to Share:

May God the Father surround you with his care. May the Lord Jesus take you into his arms and bless you. May the Holy Spirit give you a trusting faith. Amen. (Psalm 8:4; Mark 10:16)

Mealtime Refrain:

Lord, our Lord:
How majestic is your name in all the earth. (Psalm 8:1)

Mealtime Prayer:

*With this food you make us strong.
To you our life and love belong.
Thank you, God! Amen.*



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Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share a favorite childhood memory.
- Jesus has a special love for little children (see Mark 10:13-16). What does this say to you about what God is like?
- Jesus placed his hands on the little children and blessed them. In what ways have you experienced God blessing you? How has God used your hands to bless others?

Devotional Practices:

Give attention to blessing one another in your home this week – e.g. at bedtimes, or when household members leave for work or school. Use one of the blessings below or one of the “Blessings to Share” provided each week in *Taking Faith Home*.

May the Lord cover you with his peace, fill you with his love, and keep you safe in his care. Amen.

*The Lord bless you and protect you;
the Lord show you kindness and be gracious to you;
the Lord grant you his favor and give you his peace. Amen.*

May the Lord protect you when you are awake (sign cross on forehead); and watch over you when you sleep (sign cross over eyes); that awake you make keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace (sign cross over heart). Amen.

Service:

Think of a married couple whom you could encourage. Write them a note, prepare a gift for them to enjoy, or, if they have children, offer childcare so the parents can go out together.

Rituals and Traditions:

In this week’s Gospel reading, Jesus teaches about marriage. Spend some time together this week looking at wedding photos or videos and other wedding memorabilia. Pray for married couples you know, that God would help them to grow together in loving one another and serving him.

Parent Toolbox: Speaking Blessings to our Children

One of the most significant spiritual acts a parent can perform for and with their child is to regularly bless them. When we bless a person we declare and convey God’s favor to them, honor who they are, and give them the hope and assurance of God’s loving care. There are three basic components to a blessing – God’s name; words of hope, kindness and comfort; and touch. Aim to take a few moments to bless your child this and every day!



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