

**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 7:24-37	Christ heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 29:17-24	The deaf will hear
Tuesday	Mark 9:14-27	Jesus gives a boy speech
Wednesday	Matthew 5:13-16	Let your light shine before others
Thursday	Matthew 25:31-40	The works of the righteous
Friday	Luke 10:25-37	Go and do likewise
Saturday	Isaiah 38:9-20	Thanksgiving for healing
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross

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**Scripture Verse for the Week:**

Say to those whose hearts are afraid, "Be strong. Do not fear. Your God will come." – Isaiah 35:4a (NIRV)

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

**Prayer for this Week:**

Lord Jesus, please open my ears to hear you, and my tongue to praise you. Amen. (Mark 7:33-36)

**For Throughout the Day:**

Lord, please help me to show my faith by my actions. Amen. (James 2:14-17)

**A Blessing to Share:**

*May God give you a faith that rests in him, and is active in serving others. Amen.*

**Mealtime Refrain:**

God stands up for those who are beaten down and gives food to the hungry: **He gives a helping hand to everyone who falls.** (Psalm 146:7,8)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

*Lord, as we thank you for much, bless those who have little. Give us hearts that care, and hands that share. Amen.*



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**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you were in need. Who helped you?
- The apostle James reminds us that having faith means that we are concerned with the needs of others (James 2:14-17). Name needs that you see in people whom you come into contact with.
- How are you involved in helping to provide for the needs of others?

**Devotional Practices:**

Gather stories from the newspaper, magazines or the internet which describe people in need. Place these on a poster or pinboard. In your household devotion times this week pray for these people and their situations.

**Service:**

Make an extra serving of food this week to give to a friend or neighbor in need of support e.g. an elderly person who lives alone, a family under stress, a person with sickness.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

Next Sunday (September 13) is Grandparent’s Day. During this week, plan a special way to show appreciation for these special people in your lives. Use this prayer to give thanks to God for them.

*Loving God, thank you for the gift of grandmothers and grandfathers. Your love is shown in their love and care for us. Thank you for the surprises grandmas bring, and for things they make us. Thank you for the toys that grandpas fix and the stories they read us. Thank you for ways that our grandparents spoil us, for the celebrations they never forget, and for all the snuggles they give. Thank you for their wise minds, listening ears and loving hearts. Please bless them and take care of them. Amen.*

**Parent Toolbox: Nurturing Compassion in Children**

Compassion, or empathy, means identifying with and being concerned about other people’s feelings and needs. As children grow, compassion can guide their actions and behaviors in positive ways. We can promote compassion by helping our children to think about how others feel. For example, if your child says or does something hurtful to another child, help them to consider how the other child may feel by saying, for example, “How do you think Sue feels? Would you like to feel like that?” Children also develop compassion by practicing acts of caring and kindness towards others. As adults, we need to emphasize and model the importance of helping others, giving others the benefit of the doubt, and being open to differences in others.

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