

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	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
Monday	Matthew 10:34-42	The cost of discipleship
Tuesday	Matthew 16:21-26	Taking up our cross
Wednesday	Acts 5:17-41	Suffering for Jesus' sake
Thursday	Philippians 3:7-14	Sharing in Jesus' sufferings
Friday	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering as Christians
Saturday	Psalm 101	Choosing God's law
Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin

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Scripture Verses for the Week:

"Choose life! Be completely faithful to the Lord your God, love him, and do whatever he tells you. The Lord is the only one who can give life."
 – Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a (CEV)

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

Prayer for this Week:

Lord Jesus, teach me to put you ahead of everything else. Please give me the real life that only you can give. Amen.
 (Luke 14:33; Deuteronomy 30:20).

For Throughout the Day:

Lord Jesus, please give me ears to hear your voice today. Amen.
 (Luke 14:35)

A Blessing to Share:

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen." (Philemon 3)

Mealtime Refrain:

Let us stay close to God and do what he says:
God is the key to our lives. (Deuteronomy 30:20)

Mealtime Prayer:

For the food we share, for loved ones who care, and for days so fair - we thank you, God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

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SCRIPTURE

Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is the best thing about being a follower of Jesus? What is the most difficult thing?
- Jesus said that we must “give up everything” to be his disciples. How do you understand his words?
- What has Jesus given up for you?

Devotional Practices:

St. Paul wrote these words to his friend Philemon: “I always thank God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints” (Philemon 4-5). In your home devotion times this week, pray by name for your Christian friends. Send them cards containing this verse from Philemon.

Service:

St. Paul gave his love, care and support to a young man called Onesimus whom he met in prison. Who in your community is experiencing hard times due to illness, loss of work or separation from family? Choose a couple of people to be “ONES I Must Serve” for your household. Make them a meal, do an act of service for them (e.g. mow their lawn or help clean their home) or offer friendship to them.

Rituals and Traditions:

Jesus said “anyone who does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:27). This means that in following Jesus we are sometimes asked to do things that we don’t want to do or that are hard. Invite household members to think of one “hard thing” they could attempt this week as a follower of Jesus e.g. be friendly to someone who has no friends, make peace with someone they are fighting with, work on a bad habit. Make small crosses out of wire to carry with you this week (e.g. in your clothes pockets) as a reminder of Jesus’ words.

Parent Toolbox: **Household Spiritual Goal-Setting**

Many people make plans for their financial future but few approach their spiritual lives in the same way. In Luke 14 we find that Jesus encourages us to think carefully about what it means to follow him and to plan our lives accordingly. Make time this week to talk about your household’s spiritual goals. As a community of Jesus’ disciples, what would you like to (a) keep doing; (b) stop doing; (c) start doing; (d) do differently? Set one or two goals for your spiritual life (e.g. “We would like to pray together more”, “We would like to serve others more”). Brainstorm ideas for working towards this goal and decide on one or more action steps. Print up your goal/s on a poster or large piece of paper and place in a prominent spot in your home. Revisit your goal/s in the coming months.

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