

DEVOTIONS

Think about devotions as a continuation of our community's worship. The following basic pattern could be one way of forming your household's devotions. Adapt as necessary.

GATHERING

✠ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time."

✠ Prayer of the Week

Listening God, be with us when we feel poor in spirit and needy of your love. Lift us out of the difficult spots of life and hear our prayers. Grant us what you know we need and help us to share what we have. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Take a moment to check in with each other or to use the questions below.

- ❓ **Highs and Lows:** Name one thing that made you happy today. Name one thing that made you sad.
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Hannah prayed to God for a child. She was sad not to have any children. God heard her prayers and gave her a son, Samuel. Hannah was so happy that she sang praises to God. What can you pray to God about today? How can you sing praises to God?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Israel has a new king, David. God makes a promise to David that someone from his lineage will always be king. What is a promise you made today? What is a promise someone made to you?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Read aloud from the DAILY BIBLE READING from the front. What do you want to remember from this reading?

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ As you pray, have each person name someone who is in need of God's help.

CLOSING

✠ If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.

✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

High five each other, saying, "You have an awesome God, who lifts you up when you are down. Amen."

The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson of Milestones Ministry and used by permission from Vibrant Faith Ministries, Bloomington, MN (www.vibrantfaith.org). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

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1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God."

—1 Samuel 2:2

MEALTIME PRAYER

God of abundance, hear our prayer. Give food to those who are hungry. Water to those who are thirsty. And love for all who are in need of your grace and forgiveness. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read these stories, ask yourself: **Most of us are not kings or prophets, but we all have a part to play in God's story. What is God calling you to rise up and do?**

Sunday	1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10	Hannah Promises Samuel to God
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-18	Samuel's Call
Tuesday	1 Samuel 8:1-22	Israel Demands a King
Wednesday	1 Samuel 9:27; 10:1-9	Samuel Anoints Saul
Thursday	1 Samuel 13:2-14	Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice
Friday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	David Anointed as King
Saturday	1 Samuel 24:4-12, 16-20	David Spares Saul's Life
Sunday	2 Samuel 7:1-17	God's Promise to David

If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. **Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!**

SERVICE CHALLENGE

SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.

Think of someone who might be feeling down. Bake cookies or make a simple gift for them. Deliver your gift with a smile and a kind word.