

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 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected
Monday	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	A prophet like Moses is promised
Tuesday	Matthew 7:24-29	Jesus' teaching has authority
Wednesday	Matthew 13:53-58	Jesus rejected at Nazareth
Thursday	Luke 6:20-26	Rejected disciples are blessed
Friday	1 Peter 2:4-11	Rejected by people but chosen by God
Saturday	Psalms 56	In God I trust
Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples

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Scripture Verses for this Week:

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done. Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices over the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures. – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NCV)

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

Prayer for this Week:

Loving God, teach me the way of unfailing love. Amen.
(1 Corinthians 12:31b – 13:8)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord Jesus, make me strong when I am rejected because of you. Keep me trusting and following you. Amen.

A Blessing to Share:

May God make you brave in your faith. May he keep you safe, and may he help you to speak to others about him. Amen.
(Jeremiah 1:7-8)

Mealtime Refrain:

Let us not be afraid:
God is with us to keep us safe. (Jeremiah 1:8)

Mealtime Prayer:

Give us hearts that are grateful, Lord, for all your kindness. As you love us, lead us to love others. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

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SCRIPTURE

Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What makes you feel loved? How do you show love to others?
- In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, Paul gives 16 characteristics of true love. What are they? Which do you think is the toughest to live out?
- How does God’s love match up with what Paul says about love in these verses?

Devotional Practices:

In your household devotion times this week use 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a to reflect on the love shown in your home. Ask household members to recall and name ways in which others in your home have loved them e.g. “You showed me love by being kind when ...”. “You showed me love by patient when ...” “You showed me love by forgiving me when ...”.

Service:

Think of people outside of your household who show love to you. Make up heart-shaped cards and write on each one short sentence from St. Paul’s letter on love. On the back, write a short note, thanking these people for their love - for example, on the front you might write, “Love is kind.” On the back, you might write, “Thank you for being so kind to me.” Plan a way to deliver your cards.

Rituals and Traditions:

On February 2nd, the church remembers the *Presentation of our Lord* – Jesus’ presentation at the temple forty days after his birth (see Luke 2:22-38). This festival has traditionally been called CANDLEMAS, involving candlelight processions and the blessing and distribution of candles. Simeon’s words referring to Jesus as “a light to reveal God to the nations” provide the Biblical inspiration for this.

Prepare a home candlelight procession. Have two household members act as Mary and Joseph, carrying a baby doll in representation of baby Jesus. Make a path through your home to your usual place of home worship and a waiting Simeon. In candlelight have Simeon take the “child” and read aloud the words of the Cantic of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32). Then use the following prayer, lighting four candles where indicated (*).

We thank you, God, for sending us light to help us see in so many different ways. We thank you for the light of the flame that turns darkness into light. We thank you for the light of the sun, which divides night from day.* We thank you for the words of the Bible, which show us the right way.* Above all we thank you for Jesus, who is the light of the world.* Please help us shine as lights for you, so that others too can see your love and grace. Amen.*

Finish with a candlelit meal or snack, or with a candlelit story reading time.

FOUR KEYS FOR THE HOME

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