

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt
Monday	Jeremiah 31:15-20	Hope for the future
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	For everything a season
Wednesday	Hosea 11:1-11	Out of Egypt I called my son
Thursday	Galatians 3:26 - 4:7	No longer slaves
Friday	Isaiah 43:16-21	Do not dwell on the past
Saturday	Revelation 21:1-6	God will make everything new
Sunday	John 1:10-18	God with us

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:**

People of Israel, you are my own dear children. Don't I love you best of all? Though I often make threats, I want you to be near me, so I will have mercy on you. I, the LORD, have spoken. *Jeremiah 31:20* (CEV)

**SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, thank you for becoming human to save us. Help us to live for you. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

God, we thank you for this time to share a meal with the people we love. Bless this food so that it gives us strength to serve you. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God be loving and kind to you. May God lift you up and carry you all your life. Amen.

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### CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What makes you happy? What makes you sad?
- A time of great sadness came to the town of Bethlehem soon after the visit of the Wise Men (Matthew 2:16-18). What do you do when you feel sad?
- How does faith in God help us when we are sad?

### DEVOTIONS:

While Jesus was still very young, his family fled to Egypt to escape from King Herod. There are many people in our world today who are forced to flee their homes because their countries have become unsafe for them – we call them refugees. Find out more about refugees in our world today (e.g. visit [www.refugeesinternational.org](http://www.refugeesinternational.org)). Talk together about what it would be like to be a refugee and pray for those in such situations.

### SERVICE:

December 26 is called “Boxing Day” in various parts of the world (e.g. Britain, Canada, Australia). In the Middle Ages, it was the day on which wealthy landowners gave gifts to their servants and other workers. It was also the day churches distributed the contents of their alms boxes to the poor. Use this day to prepare gifts for people in your community who serve you through their work (e.g. police officers, fire fighters, postal workers). Have fun delivering your gifts over the next week!

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

When Jesus was born, God created a new household. Use the remaining eleven days of Christmas (December 26 – January 5) to celebrate the gift of people God has gathered into your household or family circle. Brainstorm activities you can do together over these days (e.g. go for a walk, play a board game, visit friends, dine out, play a sport).

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