

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 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes
Monday	Matthew 17:24-27	Jesus pays the temple tax
Tuesday	Jeremiah 29:1-7	Advice to the exiles in Babylon
Wednesday	Daniel 1:3-21	Daniel in the king's court
Thursday	Romans 13:1-7	Duties towards state authorities
Friday	Titus 3:1-8	Doing what is good
Saturday	Psalms 2	A warning for earthly rulers
Sunday	Matthew 22:34-46	Loving God and neighbor

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

"Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God."
Matthew 22:21 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

We praise you Lord, for you are great and mighty. There is no other god. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

To God who gives us daily bread, a thankful song we raise. To God who gives us life and food, we sing our heartfelt praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

You are God's chosen child. God has called you by name and will fill you with faith, hope and love to know and follow Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Who is someone you admire? Why? What about them would you like to imitate? To whom can you be a role model?
- As Christians we are called to imitate Jesus. What does this mean?

If you have young people in your life, they look to you as a role model even when you don't think they are paying attention! Here are some ways you can be more intentional about what you teach them.

- Let them see and hear you praying or wondering about God.
- Help them learn how and why to save money by telling how you make those decisions.
- Keep the promises you make. If you do not keep your word, acknowledge that.
- Ask questions, and answer their questions.
- Teach them the qualities to look for in friends by telling them what you value in your friendships.
- Apologize when you make a mistake or do something you regret.

DEVOTIONS:

Play a game of "Simon Says." Then have a discussion about ways in which we "copy" others in our lives – both in good and bad ways. Talk about what it means to imitate Jesus and to be an example of Christian faith, hope and love to others (1 Thessalonians 1:2-7). Pray for one another in turn, giving thanks for God for the ways he is at work in and through each person in your home.

SERVICE:

Identify people who serve as Christian role models to members of your household. Discuss ways in which you can express your thanks and appreciation to them and plan one way to do so.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Jesus said: "Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to him" (Matthew 22:21). An important faith practice or ritual is regular giving to the Lord through Sunday offerings. Discuss together what your household gives to the Lord. If you have not already done so, develop a regular pattern for setting aside each week what you will give in Sunday offerings. Include each household member in the practice of giving; even very young children can be involved!