

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	Mark 9:2-9	The transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	Exodus 19:7-25	Moses meets God
Tuesday	Job 19:23-27	Job will see God
Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-6,16-21	The practice of faith
Thursday	Isaiah 58:1-12	True fasting
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:10	Living as Christ's ambassadors
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-17	Have mercy on me, God
Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	The temptation of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

From the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Listen to what he says!" **Mark 9:7 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, Son of God, open our ears and our hearts so that we listen to you.
Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For every cup and every plateful, to you, O God, we're very grateful. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's light shine in your heart so that you know and listen to Jesus.
Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you were scared. What did you do?
- In Mark 9:2-9 we hear about an amazing experience that Peter, James and John had one day. How do you think you would have reacted?
- God spoke from the cloud and told Jesus' disciples to listen to Jesus. How does listening to Jesus help us when we are scared or fearful?

DEVOTIONS:

If your congregation does not have a worship service, you can observe Ash Wednesday (February 22) in your home. Mark one another with ashes made by burning some paper and crushing it into fine ashes. Then, mix the ashes with a small amount of olive oil. Make the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads as you say these words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn back to God and believe in Jesus, your Savior.

SERVICE:

Make this week "secret service" week in your home. Put your household member's names in a hat and have each person draw out someone else's name. They are to do some form of "secret service" for that person during the week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

This week, Lent begins! Begin your household preparations by observing Shrove Tuesday (February 21). The name "shrove" comes from the practice of being "shriven" – going to church, confessing your sins and being forgiven – before the start of Lent. Shrove Tuesday is also sometimes known as Pancake Tuesday or Fat Tuesday, because households used up their remaining eggs and fats before Lent by making pancakes on this day. Here are some ideas for Shrove Tuesday:

- Have a pancake breakfast or dinner. As you eat, talk about what Jesus gave up for our sake, and what you might wish to give up for Lent to help you prepare spiritually for Holy Week.
- Have a household party with special dessert foods, party hats and an "Alleluia" sign. Prepare a box, covered with purple paper and a foil cross on top. Eat your meal, sing a party song, and welcome in Lent with noisemakers. At the end of the meal, "bury" the noisemakers and the "Alleluia" sign in the box. Open the box again on Easter Sunday.