

## 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 13:1-9,18-23	Parable of the sower and seed
Monday	Leviticus 26:3-20	A rich and poor harvest
Tuesday	Mark 4:26-32	Two parables of seeds
Wednesday	John 5:24-29	Hearing Jesus' words
Thursday	Hebrews 4:12-13	The word of God is active
Friday	Isaiah 55:6-11	The power of God's word
Saturday	Psalms 1	The tree that prospers
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30,36-43	Parable of the weeds

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

That's how it is with my words. They don't return to me without doing everything I send them to do.

*Isaiah 55:11 (CEV)*

## SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, make us into good soil that receives your Word. Lead us to hear it, understand it, and do what it asks. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, by your power we are fed, by your Spirit we are led. For all the things you do, we give praise and thanks to you. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God's Word take root in your heart. May you grow as God's child and produce good things for God's world. Amen.

## CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- How have you grown over this past year (e.g. physically, socially, emotionally, vocationally, intellectually, spiritually)? What things have helped you to grow?
- In your faith life at present, are you more like the path, the rocky ground, the thorn patch or the good soil? Explain your answer.

In supporting and encouraging the spiritual growth of their children, adults must take care not to ignore what is perhaps the most important influence of all – their own life of faith! The busyness of child-rearing can lead parents to effectively put their own spiritual lives “on hold” precisely when their children most need them to see them practicing their faith in earnest and striving to grow. Attending to our own spiritual needs and caring for our children are not two distinct things – the second is directly influenced by the first. As a parent, take time this week to apply the Parable of the sower and the seed to your own life. What steps could you take in order to develop spiritually?

## DEVOTIONS:

Gather four small pots or containers. Fill the first with gravel to represent a path, the second with rocks, the third with thorns or thistles, and the fourth with good soil. Place these in your home devotional area. As part of your household devotional times this week, say the following prayer:

*Lord God, please keep us from having hearts that are hard, like a path. Keep us from having hearts that are shallow, like soil on rocky ground. Keep us from having hearts that are easily choked, like seeds among thorns. Instead, make our hearts like good soil, so that we gladly receive your word and accept it. Amen.*

## SERVICE:

Volunteer some time as a household to assist a neighbor to tidy up their garden or yard.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

For a household activity, plant flower seeds in containers filled with potting soil. Place in a sunny window and take turns in watering them over the next few weeks. Enjoy watching new life emerge!