

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 13:31-33,44-52	Parables of the kingdom
Monday	Colossians 1:24 – 2:3	Christ, the mystery of God
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Treasure in clay pots
Wednesday	John 3:16-18	God's love for the world
Thursday	1 John 3:1-3	How great the Father's love
Friday	Romans 5:1-8	God has poured out his love
Saturday	Psalms 136	His love endures forever
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love.

Romans 5:4-5 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, make your kingdom grow in our lives. Change us through and through so that we love you and others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Our hands we fold, our heads we bow. For food and drink, we thank God now. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's love hold you tight, giving you faith to trust that love, now and always. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share your best or worst experience of baking or cooking.
- Jesus told a parable about a woman who made a large amount of bread using just a little yeast (Matthew 13:33). What point was Jesus making about God's kingdom?
- Have you experienced God at work in you (like the yeast in the woman's dough)? In what ways?
- How does God use us as "yeast" in other's lives?

DEVOTIONS:

St. Paul tells us that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him, even when times are difficult (Romans 8:28). In your home devotional times this week, make a list of the ways you have experienced God working for good in your lives, even in the hard times. Say a prayer of thanks to God for his love.

SERVICE:

Purchase a packet or packets of small seeds. Cut up a sheet of cardstock into strips the size of bookmarks. On one side of each strip write the words "*God has great plans for you – Matthew 13:31-32*" and glue seeds onto the other side. Laminate or cover with clear contact paper when complete. Give these away to your friends or neighbors.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Plan a fun household activity reflecting one of Jesus' parables about the kingdom of God:

1. Plant seeds in indoor pots or in your garden (Matthew 13:31-32).
2. Bake bread from basic ingredients (Matthew 13:33).
3. Go on a neighborhood hunt for "treasure" (Matthew 13:44-46).
4. Go fishing (Matthew 13:47-48).