

MLK, Jr. Day of Service Family Devotion

“Awareness is central to compassion. Those with the ability to be compassionate are often very tuned in to the needs of others.”

Traci Smith, *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home*.

Introduction Reading

(Divide the readings as appropriate for your family)

Family Member 1: This MLK Day (& every day) our family strives to join hands with the community and lean into the vision of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and The King Center.

Family Member 2: Like Rev. Dr. King, *we envision the Beloved Community where injustice ceases and love prevails.*

Family Member 3: God calls us to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Yet, we still have God’s beloved people who struggle with food insecurity. There are still those who do not have access to sufficient food, or food of an adequate quality, to meet their basic needs.

Family Member 4: In Chester County alone, there are over 11,000 children, 3,500 seniors and 3,400 disabled adults (age 18-59) who are considered food insecure.

Family Member 3: In loving God, we must do our part to love these neighbors, our siblings in Christ, to reach out to help meet needs, and to give voice to the injustices against them.

Family Member 2: Today, as a family, we will partner with Westminster Presbyterian Church and The Vine Ministry to pack ____ *(fill in the number that your family has volunteered to pack)* lunches to help provide food and radical hospitality to our vulnerable neighbors in need.

Scripture Reading (one person read, or divide for different readers)

Together read Matthew 25:31-46 from a Bible at home, or use this link.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A31-46&version=NRSVUE>

Serve

(Check out the Sign-Up Genius for lunch details and to sign up...

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4BA9AD2FA1F49-mlkday1>)

Together as a family, pack your lunches and bring them to the church between 9-11am on Monday, January 16 (at the front portico). Involve every family member! Even some of our littles can sort items and place items in bags. They can also help by drawing encouraging pictures (or writing notes) on the bags!

Reflect

After your family's time of serving for this day, take a few moments to talk about your experience. Here are some questions to guide you:

- How did it feel to help someone (a neighbor that you probably don't know) in this way?
- Do you think it is easier or harder to help someone that you don't know?
- How might that change if you knew the person/people you are helping?
- Should we do this again? How often?
- Are there other ways we could help and show love to neighbors?

Pray (Pray together or choose one person to lead)

God of the Beloved Community (our community), thank you for giving us what we have so that we can share and help others who don't have as much. Strengthen us as a family so that we can continue to feed your hungry, give water to your thirsty, and give voice to the injustices shown towards your beloved children. Amen.

This devotion was inspired by the work of Rev. Traci Smith in her writings in *Faithful Families - for Lent, Easter, & Resurrection* and *Faithful Families – Creating Sacred Moments at Home*.

To learn more about the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and The King Center, please follow the link ---- (<https://thekingcenter.org/>).

To learn more about The Vine Ministry, please follow this link ----
www.thevinepa.org.

To learn more about Food Insecurity and its causes, please follow this link ----
<https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/food-insecurity>.