DEVOTIONS

Think about devotions as a continuation of our community's worship. The following basic pattern could be one way of forming your household's devotions. Adapt as necessary.

GATHERING

- Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time."
- **Prayer of the Week**
  Light of the world, beam bright into our hearts Shine through us so that your love may be clearly seen. Teach us to love and serve each other. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Take a moment to check in with each other or to use the questions below.

- **Highs and Lows:** Where did you shine bright today? Where did you *not* shine so bright?
- **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Even though Abram and Sarai had no children, God promised them many descendants. God cared about Abram, Sarai and their family. In what ways, did you feel God's love and care in your life today?
- **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Pushed into a pit and sold into slavery, Joseph finds himself between a rock and a hard place. But no matter where he went, God was with him. Name a time today when you felt bad. Did you feel God was with you? How?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Read aloud from the DAILY BIBLE READING from the front. What do you want to remember from this reading?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Go outside or look out the window, and count how many stars you can see. For each star counted, name one person you are grateful for and why.

CLOSING

- If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.
- **Rituals & Traditions**: **A Blessing to Share**
  With permission, trace a star on the hands of one another, and say, **"May God's love shine within you for all the world to see. Amen."**

The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson of Milestones Ministry and used by permission from Vibrant Faith Ministries, Bloomington, MN (www.vibrantfaith.org). For more information about the Four Keys, go to http://milestonesministry.org/.

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SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 **Genesis 15:1-6**

Sharing GOD'S STORY *@ home*

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

[God] brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then [God] said to him, "So shall your descendants be."
– Genesis 15:5

MEALTIME PRAYER

God who made the stars above and fills our hearts with daily love, bless our bodies with this food, and for your bounty, we give our thanks. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read these stories, ask: ***How does God show love and care for God's people?***

Sunday	Genesis 15:1-6	God's Promise to Abram
Monday	Genesis 17:1-8	God Changes Abram's name
Tuesday	Genesis 18:1-15	A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah
Wednesday	Genesis 21:1-7	The Birth of Isaac
Thursday	Genesis 22:1-14	The Command to Sacrifice Isaac
Friday	Genesis 27:1-17, 30-38	Isaac Blesses Jacob
Saturday	Genesis 35:9-15	God's Promise Passed to Jacob
Sunday	Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21	Joseph and His Brothers

If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. ***Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!***

SERVICE CHALLENGE

SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.

Cut out a star from a piece of paper. Think of a good friend or family member and write a quick note sharing why they are a "shining star" in your life. Mail or hand deliver the note during the week.

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