

God's Story Our Story

April 24, 2016



Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone, as a couple, as a family; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of unity, there is so much work to do in this world to make it the creation you intended. Show us how to work together to create a world of unity, peace, and love. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Paul spread the good news of God's love far and wide. He planted churches and helped set those new Christian communities on a path toward justice and peace. But he didn't work alone. In all the places where churches thrived, there were community leaders who helped shape and sustain the new churches and their missionaries. Aquila and Priscilla, tentmakers by trade, were some of the leaders who aided Paul in his work and helped build the church in Corinth.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, Acts 18:1-4, *Church at Corinth*

Monday, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, *Factions in the Corinthian Church*

Tuesday, Acts 8:4-25, *Philip Preaches in Samaria*

Wednesday, Acts 8:26-40, *Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*

Thursday, Acts 9:1-19a, *The Conversion of Saul*

Friday, Acts 9:19b-22, *Saul Preaches in Damascus*

Saturday, Acts 9:23-31, *Saul in Jerusalem*

How have the people in these stories been transformed by the message of Jesus Christ?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Who do you consider your people? Who are not your people? What makes them the same or different? What could you do this week to expand your circle of people?

How is God's word a message of hope for you? How is it a message of condemnation?

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Use your gifts to help a missionary. Whether it's money, time, or talent, discover who your community's missionaries are and share your gifts with them. Write about the experience in your church's newsletter.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bring you into unity with all people. Amen.