

God's Story Our Story



December 27, 2015

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.

Voice of heaven, speak in us this day. Stir our hearts with your Word. Let us find both our happiness and our power in you. Amen.

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

I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Mark 1:8

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Mark's gospel begins with a fiery preacher and a challenging message. No silent night here, no gift-bearing visitors. John the Baptist awaits his cousin, Jesus, by a stream in the wilderness. Temptations await Jesus on the other side. Soon, by the lakeshore, the divine call will be irresistible.**Read:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, Mark 1:1-20, *Beginning of Good News*

Monday, Psalm 91:9-12

Tuesday, Malachi 3:1-7, *The Coming Messenger*

Wednesday, Isaiah 40:1-11, *Comfort, Comfort*

Thursday, Isaiah 44:1-8, *God's Blessing on Israel*

Friday, Joel 2:28-29, *God's Spirit Poured Out*

Saturday, Isaiah 42:1-9, *The Servant, a Light to the Nations*

How do these Old Testament readings tie into the gospel reading for Sunday?

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?

Why do you think Jesus' ministry began with his baptism? What does your baptism mean to you?

How do you make it known that Jesus is your savior? What could you do to make Christ known through the way you live your life?

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

Make a list of 5 ways your life could be a proclamation of Jesus' presence in your life. Focus on doing more of one of those throughout the week.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God fill your life with the good news of eternal life. Amen.