



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	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	1 Kings 17:17-24	Elijah raised the widow's son
Tuesday	2 Kings 4:18-37	Elisha raises a dead child
Wednesday	Acts 20:7-12	Paul raises a young man
Thursday	Matthew 9:18-19,23-25	Jesus raises a dead girl
Friday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Made alive with Christ
Saturday	Psalms 6	Deliver me, O Lord
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will have life even if they die. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please fill us with your resurrection life today. Help us to do what pleases you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, through this food you give us life for today, and through your Son you give us life forever. All praise to you! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of God live in you. May God fill you with new life, now and forever. Amen.



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	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	1 Kings 17:17-24	Elijah raised the widow's son
Tuesday	2 Kings 4:18-37	Elisha raises a dead child
Wednesday	Acts 20:7-12	Paul raises a young man
Thursday	Matthew 9:18-19,23-25	Jesus raises a dead girl
Friday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Made alive with Christ
Saturday	Psalms 6	Deliver me, O Lord
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will have life even if they die. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please fill us with your resurrection life today. Help us to do what pleases you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, through this food you give us life for today, and through your Son you give us life forever. All praise to you! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of God live in you. May God fill you with new life, now and forever. Amen.



CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sad.
- Mary and Martha were very sad because their brother Lazarus had died. What did Jesus say to comfort them? (read John 11:23-25).
- How do Jesus' words make you feel? Why?

Many people feel apprehensive about discussing death, especially with children. However, death is an inescapable fact of life. Everyone encounters death at some time; if we are to help children understand, we must let them know it's OK to talk about it.

- Use clear and concise words when talking about death. Small children often struggle to understand abstract language. Check to see if a child has understood what has been said. Consider the maturity of your child. Telling a child too much may cause distress, but not telling them enough may also cause issues.
- Let your child know that expressing emotions and asking questions is natural and OK.
- Do not avoid your child's questions. Avoidance may only heighten their anxiety. Each question deserves a simple and relevant answer.
- Don't be concerned if you are not able to answer every question. It is better to say "I don't know" than to give a misleading response.
- Remember that children often realize much more than we give them credit for, and that their ability to cope often exceeds our expectations.

DEVOTIONS:

When Jesus was confronted with Mary and Martha's grief, he also wept (John 11:35). In your home devotion times this week, make a point of praying for people who are experiencing times of sadness (those who are sick or who have recently had a friend or loved one die).

SERVICE:

Make up a bouquet of flowers or decorate a card for someone who has recently lost a loved one. Deliver it yourself or ask your pastor to deliver it for you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Set aside time to visit a cemetery as a household. Look at the bible verses or religious words featured on tombstones. Discuss how Jesus' promise of resurrection gives us hope and comfort.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sad.
- Mary and Martha were very sad because their brother Lazarus had died. What did Jesus say to comfort them? (read John 11:23-25).
- How do Jesus' words make you feel? Why?

Many people feel apprehensive about discussing death, especially with children. However, death is an inescapable fact of life. Everyone encounters death at some time; if we are to help children understand, we must let them know it's OK to talk about it.

- Use clear and concise words when talking about death. Small children often struggle to understand abstract language. Check to see if a child has understood what has been said. Consider the maturity of your child. Telling a child too much may cause distress, but not telling them enough may also cause issues.
- Let your child know that expressing emotions and asking questions is natural and OK.
- Do not avoid your child's questions. Avoidance may only heighten their anxiety. Each question deserves a simple and relevant answer.
- Don't be concerned if you are not able to answer every question. It is better to say "I don't know" than to give a misleading response.
- Remember that children often realize much more than we give them credit for, and that their ability to cope often exceeds our expectations.

DEVOTIONS:

When Jesus was confronted with Mary and Martha's grief, he also wept (John 11:35). In your home devotion times this week, make a point of praying for people who are experiencing times of sadness (those who are sick or who have recently had a friend or loved one die).

SERVICE:

Make up a bouquet of flowers or decorate a card for someone who has recently lost a loved one. Deliver it yourself or ask your pastor to deliver it for you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Set aside time to visit a cemetery as a household. Look at the bible verses or religious words featured on tombstones. Discuss how Jesus' promise of resurrection gives us hope and comfort.