

TAKING FAITH HOME

21st April 2013



the *faith*5 faith acts in the home



share your highs and lows of the day or discuss some of the questions from the **FOURKEYS caring conversations**.



read and highlight a passage of scripture in your Bible. These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Ezekiel 34:1-16	The Lord and his flock
Tuesday	Ezekiel 34:20-32	The promise of a shepherd
Wednesday	Matthew 18:10-14	Parable of the lost sheep
Thursday	Jeremiah 23:1-4	God will gather his sheep
Friday	Micah 2:12-13	Deliverance promised
Saturday	Psalms 100	We are God's sheep
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another



talk about how the Bible passage relates to your highs and lows or discuss some of the ideas in **FOURKEYS devotions**.



pray for your highs and lows, for your family, and for the world.



bless one another using the following blessing or make up your own.

mealtime prayer

Shepherd God, we have all we need – food for our mouths and rest for our souls. Thanks be to you! Amen.

verse for the week

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

JOHN 10:27-28 (TNIV)

blessing

May God's goodness and love be with you each day of your life, and may you live in God's house forever. Amen.

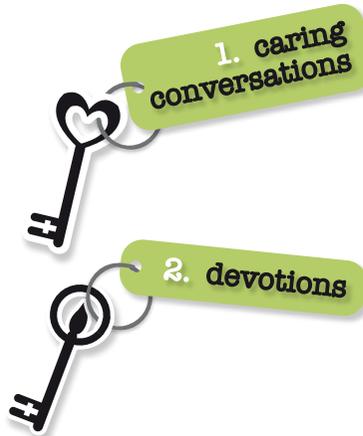
PSALM 23:6

FOURKEYS

for practising faith

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Where do you feel safe? Why?
- Jesus calls us his sheep, and says that no one can snatch us away from his hand. What do you think he means?
- In what ways do you experience Jesus as your Good Shepherd?



Traditionally, Good Shepherd Sunday is associated with prayers for people who are serving in specific ministry roles in the church. Use your home devotion times this week to pray for those God uses to shepherd his people – here are some suggestions for each day:

Monday:	Denominational Church Leaders
Tuesday:	Pastors
Wednesday:	Christian Teachers or Educators
Thursday:	Church Musicians
Friday:	Missionaries and Evangelists
Saturday:	Chaplains of various types



In Acts 9:36-43 we read of a Christian lady named Dorcas who was “always doing good and helping the poor”. Designate this week “Dorcas Week” in your home. Donate some grocery items to a food pantry helping the poor, or plan a way to raise funds for a charity assisting the poor in your community.



A good tradition to develop in a Christian home is that of Scripture memorisation. When household members work together to memorise Bible verses, they are able to support and encourage one another, and even come to relish the challenge. This week, aim to memorise Psalm 23 (6 verses) as a household. Start by learning the first verse, and then add a verse each day. Decide on a reward to enjoy together once you have met the challenge.

ParentWord

Parenting is sometimes referred to as “shepherding”. Like shepherds, parents guide, protect and care for their children. But the first calling of each Christian parent is not to be a shepherd, but a sheep – to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd and to follow him. Without the care of Christ, we are easily lost ... and a lost shepherd is of little use to their flock!



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Written by Pastor Greg Priebsenow (St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bundaberg) in partnership with Faith Inkubators Australia www.faitthink.com.au FOR USE SOLELY IN AUSTRALIA

