

TAKING FAITH HOME

18th August 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	Luke 12:49-56	Jesus the cause of division
Monday	John 7:1-12	People divided about Jesus
Tuesday	John 9:13-34	Pharisees divided on Jesus
Wednesday	Acts 14:1-7	Division at Iconium
Thursday	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Paul writes about division
Friday	Hebrews 10:23-28,35-38	Persevere in the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 35	Contend, O Lord
Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the Sabbath



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

Lord, with food you feed us and with love you lead us. Thank you for giving all we need for living. Amen.

verse for the week

Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect.

HEBREWS 12:2A (NCV)

blessing

May God give you a faith that keeps on going. May he keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Amen.

HEBREWS 12:1-2

FOURKEYS

for practising faith



Discuss in your household or small group:

- Who has been an encouragement to you in your life? How? (Share your story with your household or small group).
- Hebrews 11 lists people of faith who encourage us by the way they have trusted God. Who or what encourages you in your faith?
- How can you be an encourager of other Christians?



Hebrews 12:1 speaks of Christians being surrounded by "a great cloud of witnesses". In your home devotion times this week, consider those people who have been faith witnesses to members of your household. Write their names down on pieces of white card and cut into cloud shapes. Make a mobile (you could use a coat hanger as a frame) to hang in your home as a reminder of these people. Thank God for them in your home prayer times.



Plan to surprise someone in your congregation who has encouraged you with an encouragement visit or gift. Prepare a bouquet of flowers or a plate of treats to give them, or organise a small celebration party for them. Share with them when and how they have encouraged your household in following Jesus.



Hebrews 12:1 encourages us to "get rid of everything that slows us down" from following Jesus. Join in a household ritual of repentance this week. Place a stone or rock on your table to symbolise things in your lives that keep you from living and acting the way Jesus wants you to (e.g. being rude or nasty to each other, lying about something we did or did not do, taking something that doesn't belong to us, not helping others). Pass the rock around, with each person sharing something they would like to say sorry to God for. When each person has had a turn, say the following prayer.

Dear Jesus, please forgive us for those times when we don't follow you. Help us to fight against sin and to keep our eyes on you. Amen.

Then throw the rock away to symbolise God's removal of our sins through Christ.



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