

TAKING FAITH HOME

24th February 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 13:31-35	Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem
Monday	Zechariah 8:1-8,14-23	The Lord is jealous for Zion
Tuesday	Hosea 11:1-11	God's love for Israel
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-14	The Lord will rebuild Israel
Thursday	Romans 11:25-32	All Israel will be saved
Friday	Revelation 21:1-14,22-27	The new Jerusalem
Saturday	Psalms 105:1-11,37-45	God remembers his covenant
Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree



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

All things below, all things above, are gifts of your amazing love. Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.

verse for the week

In times of trouble, you will protect me. You will hide me in your tent and keep me safe on top of a mighty rock.

PSALM 27:5 (CEV)

blessing

May God gather you into his loving arms. May he hear your prayers for help and answer you with kindness. Amen.

FOURKEYS

for practising faith



Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sad. In his life on earth, what caused Jesus to feel sad? (read Luke 13:34).
- What do we do and say that makes Jesus sad?
- Jesus longed to gather the people of Jerusalem to himself like a mother hen gathers her chicks. What does this tell us about him?

To distinguish Lent from "ordinary" time, call the household to meals in a new way. Have household members take turns in ringing a small bell as a call to gather for meals. Light a candle and have a few moments of silence before you say grace and begin to eat.

Commit as a household this week to each do one "daily deed" of service to one another. Think about small acts of service that show love and care to one another. Is there laundry to sort or dishes to be washed? Is there a floor that needs sweeping or a room that needs dusting? Put up a list of the "daily deeds" you commit to perform.

During Lent most Christian churches refrain from singing or responding with "Alleluia" (a Hebrew word meaning "praise to God"). This is a way to highlight the serious and reflective nature of the Lenten season. Symbolise the silencing of "Alleluia" at home by making a banner with the word on it, rolling it up and putting it away in a cupboard until Easter Sunday. On Easter morning bring out the banner and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with your spoken or sung "Alleluias".

ParentWord

Your home observance of Lent can be enhanced by the use of symbols. Consider using each of these four symbols in the coming weeks:

CRUCIFIX: Do you have a crucifix in your home? If not, Lent might be a wonderful time to buy one and place it in a central place. Even a child's drawing of Jesus' death for us can be a powerful, stirring reminder of God's love.

BOWL OF WATER: A simple bowl of water, in a central place, can be an ongoing reminder of baptism in our lives. Use the bowl to mark one another with the sign of the cross during Lent.

BOWL OF SAND: A bowl of sand can remind us of Jesus' forty days of temptation in the desert, and our own call to resist temptation in following Christ.

BIBLE: Lent is a time to renew our focus on God's Word. The prominent placement of a Bible in our home can represent for us our desire for God's Word in our lives. Use the Bible to read one or more verses for your household each day.



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

