

TAKING FAITH HOME



3rd March 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 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Jeremiah 11:1-17	Judgment against the olive tree
Tuesday	Ezekiel 17:1-10,22-24	Two eagles and two cedar shoots
Wednesday	Ezekiel 18:25b-32	Repent and live!
Thursday	Hosea 14:1-7	Return to the Lord
Friday	Luke 3:1-9	The fruit of repentance
Saturday	Psalms 34:11-22	Turn from evil and do good
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father



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

Mealtime is here, O what a spread! Thanks be to God, who gives us bread. Amen.

verse for the week

Turn to the Lord! He can still be found. Call out to God! He is near. Give up your crooked ways and your evil thoughts. Return to the Lord our God. He will be merciful and forgive your sins.

ISAIAH 55:6-7 (CEV)

blessing

May God satisfy your deepest needs. May he show you his kindness and be your helper. Amen.

PSALM 63:3-7

FOURKEYS

for practising faith



Discuss in your household or small group:

- Are you a patient or an impatient person? When do you find it hard to be patient?
- Read Jesus' parable about the fig tree (Luke 13:6-8). Where do you see patience shown in this story? How is God patient with us?
- The gardener in the parable asked for another year to help the tree bear fruit. In what ways do you think God might like to see you grow or change in the next year of your life?



The theme of repentance runs through the Bible readings for March 3. God gives us the Ten Commandments to show us his will for us, and to lead us to examine our thoughts, words and actions. In your home devotion times this week, listen together to the Ten Commandments and talk about what they mean.

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| 1 • You shall have no other gods. | 8 • You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. |
| 2 • You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. | 9 • You shall not covet your neighbour's house. |
| 3 • Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. | 10 • You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse, or their manservant, or their maidservant, or their cattle or anything that is your neighbour's. |
| 4 • Honor your father and your mother. | |
| 5 • You shall not kill. | |
| 6 • You shall not commit adultery. | |
| 7 • You shall not steal. | |



Isaiah 55:1-2 says "Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters." Commit to drinking only water at home this week. Estimate what you will save as a result and donate it to a worthy cause. Use this opportunity to reflect on God's gift of water and our new birth through the waters of baptism.



Make crosses from bars of hand soap as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice to cleanse us from our sins. Draw a cross shape on each bar of soap, then carefully carve away the excess soap using a table knife. Place soap crosses in your bathroom and kitchen soap dishes, or in the kids' baths. You could also place soap crosses in small gift bags to give away to friends and relatives.



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