

TAKING FAITH HOME



17th November 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 21:5-19	Suffering for Jesus' sake
Monday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man
Tuesday	Exodus 14:10-31	Stand firm
Wednesday	2 Chronicles 20:1-4, 14-17	Do not be afraid
Thursday	1 John 4:1-6	Do not believe every spirit
Friday	Jude 17-23	A call to persevere
Saturday	Psalms 141	God is my refuge
Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king



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, thank you for the food you send. Keep us in faith until the end. Amen.

verse for the week

Stand firm, and you will win life.

LUKE 21:19 (TNIV)

blessing

May God make you strong in your faith. May God give you wise words to speak up for him. Amen.

LUKE 21:15,19

FOURKEYS

for practising faith

1. caring conversations

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is a hope you have for the future?
- What is a fear you have about the future?
- It has been said: "We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future". What does this say to you?
- What promises does Jesus give to us about the future? (Look up Luke 21:19.)

2. devotions

Isaiah 65:17 tells us that God will "create new heavens and a new earth". Verses 24-25 of that chapter describe a new place where "the wolf and the lamb will eat together and the lion will eat straw like the ox". Share your personal "pictures of heaven" with each other (e.g. "I picture heaven as a place where ..."). As an additional activity, draw or paint these images. Place them up in your home together with the words of Isaiah 65:17a.

3. service

In Luke 21, Jesus warns that some Christians will face persecution because they follow him. This is the case today in various parts of the world. Pray this week for:

- Christians in North Korea. In this country following Jesus is considered an act of treason, and Christians face the real threat of imprisonment and even execution.
- Christians in Sudan, Nigeria, Iraq and in various parts of Indonesia, India and Pakistan. Many Christians in these areas live in fear of being physically attacked by followers of other religions.
- Christians in China. House churches in China face the constant threat of raids from government authorities. Many house church leaders have been arrested and imprisoned in modern China.

Visit the website www.persecution.org for updated reports about the persecution of Christians across the world.

4. rituals & traditions

Psalms 98:7-9a calls on all of creation to "sing before the Lord." Go on a walk or a drive and make a list of all the sounds of nature you identify. Then write your own version of Psalms 98:7-9a, mentioning the various nature sounds you heard.



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