

DEVOTIONS

Think about devotions as a continuation of our community's worship. The following basic pattern could be one way of forming your household's devotions. Adapt as necessary!

GATHERING

✠ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time."

✠ Prayer of the Week

God of all, we ask that you help us be obedient to your will and your ways, even when we want to control how things work out. Let us remember that your—not our—will be done. In the name of your Son Jesus. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Take a moment to check in with each other or to use the questions below.

- ❓ **Highs and Lows:** What was something that made you happy today? What made you feel unhappy?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Stephan was in a very dangerous situation, but he was still brave, empowered by God's Spirit. What did you do today that was at least a little bit brave, a step out of your comfort zone?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's reading, Phillip gets to tell the good news of Jesus to someone he just meets, a man from Ethiopia. What was a positive conversation you had today?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Read aloud from the DAILY BIBLE READING from the front. What do you want to remember from this reading?

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Pray: **This week, O God, help us let go and let you lead us. May we be steadfast in prayer, listening to your words and doing what you ask us to do. Amen.**

CLOSING

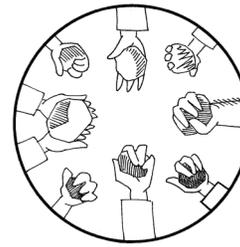
✠ If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.

✠ Rituals and Traditions: A Blessing to Share

Mark the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads or hands and say, "Go. Spread the good news in word and action."

APRIL 18, 2021

Acts 6:1–7:2a, 44-60



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

The word of God continued to spread.

—Acts 6:7

MEALTIME PRAYER

Dear God, we have always been an imperfect people, but we want to be more like you. Strengthen us in body with this food and spirit with your Word so that we can follow you with our words and actions. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Listen as you read: **What do you hear God saying in each of these stories?**

Sunday	Acts 6:1–7:2a, 44-60	Community and Condemnation
Monday	Acts 2:43-47	Life Among the Believers
Tuesday	Acts 5:12-16	The Apostles Heal
Wednesday	Acts 5:17-32	The Apostles Are Persecuted
Thursday	Acts 6:8-15	The Arrest of Stephen
Friday	Acts 7:1-43	Stephen's Speech to the Council
Saturday	Acts 8:4-25	Phillip Preaches in Samaria
Sunday	Acts 8:26-39	Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian

If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!

SERVICE CHALLENGE

SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.

Gather food from your friends, neighbors, and fellow church members to donate to a local food pantry.