

**Daily Bible Readings:**

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 15:1-3,11b-32    | Parable of the forgiving father |
| Monday    | Genesis 33:1-20       | Jacob and Esau are reconciled   |
| Tuesday   | Genesis 45:1-15       | Joseph embraces his brothers    |
| Wednesday | Genesis 45:25 - 46:30 | Jacob sees his son Joseph again |
| Thursday  | Luke 15:1-7           | The parable of the lost sheep   |
| Friday    | Romans 5:6-11         | Reconciled to God               |
| Saturday  | Psalms 73:1-11,21-28  | It is good to be near the Lord  |
| Sunday    | John 12:1-8           | Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany   |

**Scripture Verse for the Week:**

Then I confessed my sins to you and didn't hide my guilt. I said, "I will confess my sins to the Lord," and you forgave my guilt. - Psalm 32:5 (NCV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

**Prayer for this Week:**

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me and forgiving me. I rejoice because of you. Amen. (Psalm 32:5,10-11)

**For Throughout the Day:**

Lord, help me to give your message of peace to others, so that they may be brought back to you. Amen. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

**A Blessing to Share:**

*May God guide you along the best pathway for your life. May he give you good advice and watch over you. Amen.*

**Mealtime Refrain:**

Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation:

**The old is gone! The new has come!** (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

*Father in Heaven, you give us so much that we don't deserve. Please give us one more thing: thankful hearts! Amen.*



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## Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when someone forgave you. How did you feel?
- Jesus told a parable about a prodigal son. How do you think the son felt when his father welcomed him back?
- In what ways is God like the forgiving father?

## Devotional Practices:

As part of your home devotion times this week, read the Parable of the Prodigal Son (or Forgiving Father) from a Bible or Bible storybook (if you have younger children you may wish to act it out using finger puppets and simple props). Discuss the feelings and responses of each of the main characters (younger son, father, older son) in the parable. Ask: "What is Jesus trying to say to us through this character?"

## Service:

How does your congregation welcome newcomers or visitors?

Think about how you, as a household, can show God's Fatherly welcome to people who are new to your church. Talk to your pastor or a church staff member about ways you can be involved in helping newcomers and visitors to your church feel more at home.

## Rituals and Traditions:

When the younger son returned home his father called a feast to welcome him back. Do you have a tradition of offering hospitality to others in your home? Extend a dinner invitation to a newcomer to your church or neighborhood. Give roles to each person in your household in preparing for or cleaning up after the meal, in making your visitor/s feel welcome etc.

## Parent Toolbox:

### Holding On and Letting Go

Joshua 4-5 tells of the entry of the people of Israel into the promised land. When his people were unable to provide for themselves in the desert, God gave them what they needed. But when they could gather their own food, God stopped providing manna and asked them to fend off the land. In this way, God acted like a good parent. Good parenting involves knowing when to hold on, and when to let go and allow children to take responsibility for themselves. Promoting dependency in our children is as harmful as not providing support when they are unable to sufficiently care for themselves. If children are not allowed to take responsibility for their own affairs as they grow, they may struggle to develop the vital life skills necessary for coping on their own into adulthood.

