

## 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

Faithful God, you kept your promises to Abraham, promises of land and family. As spiritual descendants of Abraham, we ask that you keep your promises to us. Promises of love, forgiveness, and your presence in our lives. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that you gave up today that was hard to do. Name one thing that you gave up today that was easy to do.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice his son, Isaac. How has your faith been tested today in big or small ways?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Isaac is tricked by his son, Jacob, so that he can receive his father's blessing. When have you felt betrayed or hurt today? When have you felt blessed?

### DAILY BIBLE READING

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

### PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Keep the candle lit. Sit quietly for one minute, then say a silent prayer to God for what God has sacrificed for you.

### CLOSING

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

#### ✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

Give each other a high-five and say, "God loves you every day. Go and share your love with others. Amen."

The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson of Milestones Ministry and used by permission from Vibrant Faith Ministries, Bloomington, MN ([www.vibrantfaith.org](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Abraham said, "God . . . will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

—Genesis 22:8

### MEALTIME PRAYER

With hearts of gratitude, we give you thanks, O God. With love brimming over, we give you thanks, O God. With hands to serve, we give you thanks, O God. With bellies full, we give you thanks, O God. Amen.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What are the people doing? What is God doing?**

Sunday	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14	Abraham and Isaac
Monday	Genesis 24:1-14	Abraham Seeks a Spouse for Isaac
Tuesday	Genesis 24:15-33	Rebekah Shows Hospitality
Wednesday	Genesis 24:33-51	Rebekah and Abraham's Servant
Thursday	Genesis 24:52-67	The Marriage of Rebekah and Isaac
Friday	Genesis 25:19-28	Birth of Esau and Jacob
Saturday	Genesis 25:29-34	Esau Sells His Birthright
Sunday	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17	Jacob Steals a Blessing

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.

As an individual or family, talk about one thing you could sacrifice (do without) this week such as a trip to the coffee shop, not going out to eat, or dessert.