

MARCH 15, 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking+ faith home

Lent is a time to reflect on God's saving love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world
Monday	1 John 4:7-17	God is love
Tuesday	Romans 8:1-11	No condemnation
Wednesday	1 John 5:5-15	Eternal life through the Son
Thursday	Galatians 2:15-21	Saved through faith in Christ
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	By this gospel you are saved
Saturday	Isaiah 12:1-6	Thanks to God, our Savior
Sunday	John 12:20-33	The grain of wheat that dies

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. John 3:16 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, thank you for being God's light in our lives. Thank you for all you have done in us and through us. Amen. (John 3:19-21)

Mealtime Prayer:

Each meal we eat is a reminder of your love. Thank you, God! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you always know how much God loves you, and have life with God forever. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt really loved. What happened to make you feel that way?
- The Bible tells us that God is love. How have you seen God's love for the world?
- In what ways do you experience God's love for *you*?

DEVOTIONS

To help you think about God's love this week, draw and cut out a large heart shape from a sheet of poster paper. Attach a piece of ribbon or string so that the heart can be strung up on a wall in your home. As you go through the week, spend time by completing this statement: *"Today God showed me love by..."* Write all your household responses on the heart and watch as it fills up with signs of God's care for you!

SERVICE

Numbers 21:4-9 records that God sent snakes among the people of Israel to punish them for speaking against him. But after Moses prayed for the people, God directed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. When anyone who had been bitten looked at the snake, they were healed. In modern times, the symbol of a snake or a serpent on a pole is associated with medicine and health care. This week, plan an act of thanks and appreciation for a doctor, nurse, or medical worker in your community. Make a point of praying for them throughout the week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week, light four purple candles on your "crown of thorns" wreath. Read John 3:14-16. Then say this prayer together:

Lord Jesus, thank you for allowing yourself to be lifted up on a cross so that we could be healed of our sins. May your love overflow in our lives this Lent. Amen.



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