

AUGUST 17, 2014
10TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

Faith in Jesus is always
rewarded.

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	Matthew 15:21-28	A woman's faith
Monday	2 Kings 5:1-14	The foreigner, Naaman, is healed
Tuesday	Matthew 8:1-13	Jesus heals many people
Wednesday	Acts 14:19-28	God opens the door to Gentiles
Thursday	Acts 15:1-21	Believing Jews accept the Gentiles
Friday	Romans 11:25-27	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Saturday	Psalms 87	Foreigners praise God in Zion
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The Lord says, "Hold on to what is right and fair. Do what is right and good. My saving power will soon come." Isaiah 56:1 (NLT)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us this day! (Matthew 15:22)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, we give you praise and gratitude for food and drink and family too; and also for a roof above, but most of all for your great love.

Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God show loving kindness towards you and bring good to you.
May he make his face shine upon you. Amen. (Psalm 67:1)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you trusted someone to help you. Was your trust rewarded?
- Jesus said that the Canaanite woman who came to him had "great faith" (read Matthew 15:21-28). How did she show her faith? How was her faith rewarded?
- Finish this sentence: "I am placing my trust in Jesus to..."

DEVOTIONS

Have each person in your household take a "walk of faith." Blindfold them and lead them around your house or your neighborhood. Be sure to give them clear, simple instructions so that they do not stumble or fall. Talk about your experiences of trusting one another. Relate this to what it means to live with faith in Jesus and to trust him in daily life. Pray that each member of your household may grow in their faith.

SERVICE

The Canaanite woman who came to Jesus for help wasn't made very welcome by his disciples (Matt. 15:23). Are newcomers made to feel welcome at your church? What part do you play in welcoming others? Plan a way to make someone who is relatively new to your church feel more at home, or offer to serve as part of your church's greeting ministry.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make his house a "house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7). Use this creative prayer idea to make your home a "house of prayer" for others. Pass around a bag or bowl of M&Ms (or equivalent sweet) when your household gathers for prayer. Let each person take a handful, but don't let anyone eat them yet. Explain that the color of the M&Ms will indicate the direction of your prayers. Lead your household in prayer using this guide:

- For every red M&M, pray for a member of your family by name.
- For every green M&M, pray for a friend or neighbor.
- For every orange M&M, pray for a teacher in your life.
- For every yellow M&M, pray for someone in need.
- For every dark brown M&M, pray for a leader in your life.
- For every light brown M&M, pray for someone who is unwelcome in your school or workplace.

- For any other color, offer a prayer of your choice!



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