

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014  
16TH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

God wants us to turn back  
to him and obey him.

### 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 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons
Monday	Hosea 14:1-8	Return to the Lord
Tuesday	Acts 3:18-26	Repent then, and turn to God
Wednesday	Isaiah 55:6-7,12-13	Turn to the Lord
Thursday	John 15:9-17	Obeying the commands of Christ
Friday	James 1:19-25	Do what the word says
Saturday	Psalms 86:1-13	A prayer to do God's will
Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Repent, and turn from your sins. Don't let them destroy you! Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit." Ezekiel 18:30b-31

#### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, change our hearts and our minds. Give us a desire for your will and the courage to actually do it. Amen. (Ezekiel 30:31, Matthew 21:29)

##### Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, once again we are well fed; thank you for our daily bread. Help us not to moan or grumble; give us hearts both kind and humble. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May God set you free from sin. May he make you new in heart and in spirit. Amen. (Ezekiel 18:30-31)

taking+  
faith  
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### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you changed your mind about doing something.
- Jesus told a parable about two sons (read Matthew 21:28-31). When it comes to following God, which son are you most like?
- What is God's response when we change our minds and turn back to him?

### DEVOTIONS

Ezekiel 18:31 says, "Get rid of all the sins you have done, and get for yourselves a new heart and a new way of thinking." Cut out heart-shaped pieces of paper. As part of your home devotion times this week, have each person complete the following sentence: "I want God to change me so that I ...." Write your responses onto the paper hearts. Make a poster or a chain with the hearts. Say a prayer asking God to forgive your sins and change your hearts. Finish your time together by enjoying heart-shaped candy or cookies.

### SERVICE

Philippians 2:3 says, "Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves." Make this "Humility Week" in your household. Ask each person to secretly decide on one act of service they can perform that will show concern for the interests or needs of others. At the end of the week, talk about your acts of "secret service" and what it felt like to serve and be served.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Saint Paul writes, "Does your life in Christ give you strength? Does his love comfort you? Do we share together in the Spirit? Do you have mercy and kindness? If so, make me very happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and having one mind and purpose" (Philippians 2:1-2). Talk together about what you see to be the purpose of your household. Work on an agreed statement (e.g. "The purpose of our household is ..." with three-to-five points underneath). Have some of the points address your internal purpose (how you treat each other); have other points address your external purpose (how your family interacts with the community). Type up your household purpose statement and place it in a prominent place in your home. Agree to revisit and revise it on a regular basis.



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