

DECEMBER 7, 2014
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking⁺ faith home

We are Jesus' messengers, preparing the way
for 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	Mark 1:1-8	John the Baptist prepares the way
Monday	Isaiah 26:4-9	The way of the righteous
Tuesday	Malachi 3:1-4	God promises a messenger
Wednesday	Luke 1:5-17	God's messenger in the temple
Thursday	Psalms 90:1-12	God and time
Friday	1 Timothy 1:12-17	The unlimited patience of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 27:7-14	Lead me in a straight path
Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the Light

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way." (Mark 1:2)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, make us ready to be your messengers, preparing the way for you to come to others. Amen. (Mark 1:2-3)

Mealtime Prayer:

God our Savior, thank you for this food and all who prepared it. Help us to prepare the way for you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be good to you. May he forgive your sins and give you his peace. Amen. (Psalm 85:2, 8, 12)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Have you ever been a messenger to someone? Share your memories.
- John the Baptist was God's messenger sent to "prepare the way" for Jesus. What does John's message mean to you?
- We are God's messengers, too. What message do we have to share with other people?

DEVOTIONS

If you have not already done so, set up a home Advent wreath. This week, light both the first and second candle on your wreath. In doing so, use the following words:

*The second candle on our Advent wreath is the **BETHLEHEM CANDLE**. After a long wait, the Savior that God had promised was born in Bethlehem. He was sent to bring us peace with God.*

Have a household member read Micah 5, verses 2 and 5. Then say this prayer together, repeating after the leader:

Lord God, thank you for Jesus our Savior, born in Bethlehem. Fill us with peace as we get ready to celebrate his birth. Amen.

SERVICE

We can share God's message of love with others by doing kind deeds. Using note cards or other materials, make a "road" to attach to a wall in your home. Write the words of Mark 1:3 on your "road." As your household journeys through the second week of Advent, record any acts of service you perform on "sticky notes" and attach these notes to your "road." Pray that your acts of service may help others to see and know Jesus.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

As a household, decorate and number enough envelopes for each day left before Christmas. String them on a ribbon or cord and hang it up, perhaps with a sprig of green and a red Christmas bow at each end. Place a Christmas symbol or a Bible verse in each envelope and seal it shut. Take turns opening a package each day. The anticipation will grow as the line of packages decreases and Christmas approaches.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org