

AUGUST 23, 2015  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



Standing firm in our faith.

### 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 6:56-69	Many disciples desert Jesus
Monday	Exodus 32:1-8, 19-20	God's people fall away
Tuesday	Matthew 19:16-22	A young man goes away sad
Wednesday	Luke 9:57-62	The cost of following Jesus
Thursday	1 John 2:18-25	The departure of some
Friday	Hebrews 10:32-39	Don't throw away your confidence
Saturday	Psalm 73:1-3, 21-28	God is good to the faithful
Sunday	Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23	Authentic religion

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

#### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, no one else can give what you give. Help us to listen to your words and serve you today. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

You give us bread for living, O God. Save us from living for bread. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May you respect our Lord and be faithful to him. May the words of Jesus give you eternal life. Amen.

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### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is something in life that you struggle with or find difficult?
- Some of the people who were following Jesus couldn't accept his teachings and went away (John 6:60-66). In what way is following Jesus hard for you?
- The apostle Paul writes, "Be strong in the Lord and his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10). What strengthens your faith or helps you to keep on following Jesus?

### DEVOTIONS

Work together as a household to draw a suit of armor, including the following pieces: belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet and sword. (If you have younger children, you could play a game of "dress-up".) Throughout the week, read St. Paul's description of the "armor of God" in Ephesians 6:13-18 (maybe one or two verses each day) and discuss what each part means.

### SERVICE

The apostle Paul says, "At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people." (Ephesians 6:18) One of the most important ways we serve others is by praying for them! Make up a list of members of your congregation to pray for by name this week. Place the list in a prominent place in your home, or give each household member a list to carry with them throughout the week.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18. Talk about what it means for your household to "serve the Lord." Work together to write a statement that begins, "As a household we will serve the Lord by \_\_\_\_\_." Print out your statement and place it on a wall in your home.



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