

AUGUST 30, 2015  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

Putting God's word into practice.

## 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 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23	Authentic religion
Monday	Mark 7:14-23	What makes people unclean
Tuesday	Isaiah 29:13-16	The wisdom of the wise will perish
Wednesday	Isaiah 1:10-20	Stop doing wrong, learn to do right
Thursday	Isaiah 58:1-10	Worship that pleases God
Friday	Colossians 2:6-8, 16-23	Christ fulfills all aspirations
Saturday	Psalms 112:1-8	God will bless the just
Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Christ heals the Gentiles

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Don't just listen to the word. You fool yourselves if you do that. You must do what it says. James 1:22 (NIRV)

### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, help us to do more than hear your Word. Help us to act on it. Amen. (James 1:22)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Plates of food, gifts from above, signs of a Father's gracious love. Thank you, God! Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May you be blessed with a clean heart, so that all you say, think and do pleases God. Amen.

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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Would you prefer to listen to a piece of music or perform a piece of music? Why?
- The apostle James tells us that, as Christians, we should not only listen to what God's word tells us, but we should also act on it. How do you listen to God's word? In what ways do you put your faith into action?
- What helps you to put your faith into action? What stops you or holds you back?

## DEVOTIONS

James 1:26 says, "People who think they are religious but say things they should not say are just fooling themselves." In your household devotion times this week, give household members an opportunity, without forcing them, to apologize for things they may have said that have caused hurt or offence to others. Then, take time to affirm and encourage one another with your words. Pray for God's help to use your tongues in helpful, positive ways.

## SERVICE

The apostle James tells us that true worship of God includes looking after "orphans or widows who need help" (James 1:27). Do you know any single people or people who are isolated from family at this time? Are there ways that you can support, encourage or assist them? Plan a practical course of action that will show you to be doers, not just hearers, of God's word.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

We read in Mark 7 that Jesus accused the Pharisees of setting aside the commands of God to observe their own traditions (Mark 7:9). Take some time to discuss the traditions that characterize your household. In what ways do they reflect God's place in your life together? What is one tradition into which you introduce a faith element, or what is a new faith-based tradition you could make part of your home life?



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