

JULY 12, 2015
SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

God has adopted us through Jesus,
our brother.

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	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Monday	John 1:9-13	Children born of God
Tuesday	Romans 8:13-17	We are God's children
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 6:16 - 7:1	God will be a Father to you
Thursday	Galatians 3:26 - 4:7	God has made you an heir
Friday	Ephesians 2:19-22	Members of God's household
Saturday	Psalms 33:12-22	Blessed are those God has chosen
Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So he decided long ago to adopt us as his children. He did it because of what Jesus Christ has done. It pleased God to do it.
Ephesians 1:5 (NIRV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Thank you, O God, for choosing to save us. Continue to give us the Holy Spirit, so that the way we live praises you. Amen. (Ephesians 1:4-6, 12)

Mealtime Prayer:

Receive our thanks for night and day, for food and shelter, rest and play. Lord, be our guest and with us stay. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Child of God, may the Lord, who has chosen you, bless you generously through Jesus. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Describe a time when you were chosen for something. How did you respond?
- The apostle Paul tells us that God had decided to adopt you as a child even before the world was made (Ephesians 1:4). How does this make you feel? Why?

DEVOTIONS

Ephesians 1:3 reminds us of all the blessings God has given to us through Jesus. As part of your home devotional time this week, have a "Blessings Blitz." In three minutes, write down on slips of paper as many blessings—physical, emotional, social and spiritual—as you can think of that are part of your life. Put these slips of paper into a box or basket. When you gather together during the week, ask each household members to draw out a slip and say a prayer of thanks for the blessing that is recorded. Keep on adding blessings on slips of paper as you think of more things for which you are thankful.

SERVICE

The Gospel reading for Sunday tells how John the Baptist was put in prison and later killed. Pray this week for people who are unjustly imprisoned. Visit the website of Amnesty International to learn more about situations of injustice across the world (www.amnesty.org). Find out how you can personally support the work of Amnesty International through letter writing or with a donation.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Look together at the birth announcements in your local newspaper. Birth announcements usually identify the parents of the child and give some details about the child's birth. Ephesians 1:3-5,13-14 is our spiritual birth announcement. It says that we belong to God as adopted children, and that God has given us the Holy Spirit as a sign of spiritual adoption. God decided to do this long before we were even born! Work together to write personalized "spiritual birth announcements" that declare your membership in God's family. Decorate these and put them up around your home.