

JULY 26, 2015
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking⁺ faith home

God provides for his people's needs.

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 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Monday	Genesis 18:1-14	God eats with Abraham and Sarah
Tuesday	Exodus 24:1-11	The elders eat with God
Wednesday	Mark 8:1-10	Jesus feeds the four thousand
Thursday	Isaiah 25:6-9	A feast on the mountain
Friday	Philippians 4:10-20	Christian generosity
Saturday	Psalms 111:2-6	God gives food
Sunday	John 6:24-35	Christ, the bread of life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You open your hand and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
Psalm 145:16 (NIRV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, you can do much more than we can ask or imagine. Please do your good work in us. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless the food upon our dishes, as you did the loaves and fishes. By your grace we breathe and live, accept our thanks for all you give. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you have insight to understand Christ's love for you. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is. Amen. (Ephesians 3:18)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you were very hungry.
- Jesus performed a miracle to feed a large crowd (John 6:1-13). When have you experienced God providing for you in a special way?
- One little boy's lunch was used by God to meet the hunger of many people. In what ways might God be seeking to use you or what you have to bring help to others?

DEVOTIONS

St. Paul tells us that God is able to do much, much more than we ask or imagine through his power that is at work in us (Ephesians 3:20). Take some time together to share your future hopes and dreams, both as individuals and for your household. Then, consider what dreams God might have for you. Pray for God's blessing on one another's hopes and dreams.

SERVICE

After Jesus fed the five thousand from just five small loaves and two fish, he told his disciples to gather up what was left over. He said, "Let nothing be wasted." Are there items in your home that are being wasted, items that are no longer being used, but might benefit someone else? Take some time to sort through your household belongings. Set aside items to donate to a local thrift shop or charity.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Set aside time as a household to work together to bake some bread or cookies. Package up what you bake to give away to your neighbors. See how your efforts are multiplied into joy for others when you deliver your gifts.



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