

MAY 10, 2015
SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking⁺ faith home

Jesus loves us and asks us to love others.

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 15:9-17	Love one another
Monday	John 13:31-35	A new command
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-12	God's love and ours
Wednesday	Romans 12:9-21	Love with sincerity
Thursday	Acts 1:9-14	Jesus is taken up into heaven
Friday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Jesus, seated at God's right hand
Saturday	Psalms 47:5-7	God has gone up with a shout
Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you. The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends."
John 15:12-13 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, please help us to show our love for you today by doing what you ask. Amen. (1 John 5:3)

Mealtime Prayer:

We give thanks to you, O God, for blessings from above. Give us faith to live your way and always share your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God surround you with his love, and fill your heart with love for others. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What are some ways that people show love to you? How do you show love to others?
- Jesus said, "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12). How has Jesus shown his love for you?
- In what ways can you show more love to people around you?

DEVOTIONS

Use your household devotion times this week to express love for one another. Gather enough paper bags for each household member and write each person's name on the outside of a bag. Then, cut out blank paper hearts. Use the hearts to write notes of gratitude and support to one another throughout the week and then put them into the bags. At the end of the week, distribute the bags to their owners and enjoy reading your love notes.

SERVICE

This Friday (May 15) is the United Nations' *International Day of Families*. Choose a family to pray for during this week. Send a card telling them that you have been praying for them or organize a special act of service to encourage and support them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus said, "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12). Try some of these ways to say "I love you" to one another:

- Write love messages on sticky notes and place them in surprising places (e.g. in school lunchboxes, under pillows or plates, in purses or wallets.)
- Place a favorite flower or a small treat on the seat of the car before someone leaves for school or work.
- Leave an "I love you" message on an answering machine or computer screen saver, or send an "I love you" text message.
- Make heart-shaped coupons to give to one another (e.g. for a shoulder massage, an extra storybook reading, a walk or play together, a cuddle, an act of service.)



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