

MAY 17, 2015
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

takingt faith home

Jesus wants us to live in unity with other Christians.

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.

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|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday | John 17:6-19 | Jesus prays for his disciples |
| Monday | John 17:20-26 | Jesus prays for all believers |
| Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 | Be perfectly united |
| Wednesday | Ephesians 4:1-5 | Keep the unity of the Spirit |
| Thursday | Philippians 2:1-4 | One in spirit and purpose |
| Friday | 1 Peter 3:8-12 | Live in harmony |
| Saturday | Psalms 133 | Live together in unity |
| Sunday | Acts 2:1-21 | The Holy Spirit is given |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[Jesus prayed to his Father] "Keep them faithful to your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one."
John 17:11 (NIV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, please help us to be united with those whose beliefs about you are different from ours. Amen. (John 17:11)

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food, God bless this day, God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God protect you and keep you safe from all evil. May you live at one with God and with others. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What helps people become closer to each other? What pulls them apart?
- Jesus prayed that his followers would be one. What do you think he meant by this?
- Why is it important to stay connected to other Christians?

DEVOTIONS

In your home devotion times this week, light a single candle, join hands and say these words together (based on Ephesians 4:4-6).

We are one in Christ Jesus.

In him we have —

one body and one Spirit;

one Lord and one hope;

one faith and one baptism;

one God and Father of all.

Lord God, keep us together as one. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus desires that we live in unity with other Christians in our communities, including those who are part of other churches. Send a note of encouragement to a pastor or leader of a church in your area other than the one you attend. Give thanks for their partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Commit to praying for them and for their church during the week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Write a household creed, stating what you believe in and value. You may wish to use the following structure:

We are the _____ household. As a household we believe _____.

As a household we value _____. As a household we seek to _____.

In all that we do, God help us and keep us. Amen.

Celebrate your unity as a household with a fun outing, activity, or home celebration. Make a nice copy of your household creed to display in your home.



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