

SEPTEMBER 20, 2015
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

Following Jesus involves serving 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	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is greatest
Monday	2 Kings 5:1-14	A girl servant saves her master
Tuesday	Matthew 18:1-10	The greatest in the kingdom
Wednesday	John 13:3-15	Jesus serves his disciples
Thursday	Luke 14:7-14	Humility and hospitality
Friday	Galatians 6:1-10	Doing good to all
Saturday	Isaiah 57:14-21	God is with the humble
Sunday	Mark 9:38-50	Avoiding sin

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NRSV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please teach us how to put the needs of others before our own. Amen. (Mark 9:35)

Mealtime Prayer:

You nourish us with food, O God, for body and for soul. May love and kindness be our thanks and service be our goal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God come near to you and give you a pure heart. May the Lord make you peaceful and gentle, caring and humble, kind and helpful. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you wanted to be first in something.
- Jesus said that following him involves putting the needs of others ahead of our own. In what ways did Jesus set an example of this for us?
- In what ways do you serve others in Jesus' name? How has serving others brought good to you?

DEVOTIONS

Jesus said, "Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me." (Mark 9:36) In your home devotion times this week, make a special point of praying for children in your church and neighborhood. Ask for God's help to welcome them with the heart and spirit of Jesus.

SERVICE

Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." Make a list of ways you can be servants to one another in your household this week. Decide together on particular things you will try to do for one another. Monitor your progress during the week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

September 21 is the United Nations' *International Day of Peace*. Discuss how your household can contribute to making the world a more peaceful place. Make a list of situations or places that are in need of peace. Light a candle for each one and say a short prayer beginning with these words: "Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, please bring your peace to _____." Draw or paint symbols of peace and place these around your home.



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