

AUGUST 14, 2016  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

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faith  
home

*Run the race of faith.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Jesus the cause of division
Monday	Hebrews 11:29–12:2	The example of faith
Tuesday	John 9:13-34	Pharisees divided on Jesus
Wednesday	Acts 14:1-7	Division at Iconium
Thursday	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Paul writes about division
Friday	Hebrews 10:23-25	Persevere in the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 35	Contend, O Lord
Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the Sabbath

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us! So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us.

**Hebrews 12:1 (CEV)**

### **SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Let us run the race of faith that is before us: Let us never give up. Amen. (Hebrews 12:1)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord, with food you feed us and with love you lead us. Thank you for giving all we need for living. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God give you a faith that keeps on going. May you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Amen. (Hebrews 12:1-2)



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Who has been an encouragement to you in your life? How?
- Hebrews 11 lists people of faith who encourage us by the way they have trusted God. Who or what encourages you in your faith?
- How can you be an encouragement to others?

## DEVOTIONS

In Luke 12:49-56, Jesus talks about painful divisions in families. At the heart of these divisions is our turning away from Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-2 reminds us to run the race of faith and keep our focus on Jesus, the one who makes our faith complete. As a devotional for healing of our daily divisions, draw or cut out a running shoe and write on it, "Run the race of faith, (your name), by . . . (list ways you can keep your eye on Jesus by showing kindness and mercy to others)."

## SERVICE

The heart of service is God's call to justice and mercy for those in need (see Jesus' opening sermon in Luke 4:16-21). Summer is a particular time many families are in need of food. Give a donation or collect food items that can be used at a local food shelf.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Hebrews 12:1 encourages us to "get rid of everything that slows us down" from following Jesus. Have a service of repentance in your home. Take a stone that symbolizes things in your life that keep you from following Jesus. Pass the stone around. Each person names something silently or aloud that they would like to confess to God. When each person has had a turn, say this prayer:

**Dear Jesus, forgive us for those times when we don't follow you. Help us to fight against sin and to keep our eyes on you. Amen.**

Conclude by blessing each other using this week's blessing in Taking Faith Home.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)