

SEPTEMBER 4, 2016  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+  
faith  
home

*Faith changes us.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
Monday	Matthew 10:34-42	The cost of discipleship
Tuesday	Philemon 1:1-21	Paul's request
Wednesday	Acts 5:17-42	Suffering for Jesus' sake
Thursday	Philippians 3:7-16	Sharing in Jesus' sufferings
Friday	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering as Christians
Saturday	Psalms 101	Choosing God's law
Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

My friend, your love has made me happy and has greatly encouraged me. It has also cheered the hearts of God's people. **Philemon 1:7 (CEV)**

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

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

Lord Jesus, help us put you first in our lives and be a source of encouragement to others. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

For the food we share, for loved ones who care, and for days so fair, we thank you, God. Amen.

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

Grace and peace to you from God the Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Philemon 1:3)



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is the best thing about being a follower of Jesus?
- What is the most difficult thing?
- In Philemon, the Apostle Paul gives thanks for the faith of Philemon and how he has been a loving servant of Christ. How would you like to be remembered as a follower of Jesus?

## DEVOTIONS

In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus points out that there is a cost to discipleship. It puts following Jesus above family, friends, and even our own selves. These are challenging words from the one who comes to give us life and salvation. Jesus' words indicate that the goal of faith is a changed life. Write down a list of ways that following Jesus impacts your decisions and actions. Conclude by offering a prayer that seeks God's guidance and grace in all you say and do.

## SERVICE

St. Paul gave his love, care, and support to a young man called Onesimus, whom he met in prison. Who in your community is experiencing hard times? Find ways to reach out to that person or persons with prayer and acts of loving service.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Congregations have mission statements that identify their purpose as a faith community. It is fitting for individuals and households also to have mission statements, believing that the Christian faith makes a difference for our lives. Write out a mission statement and put it in a prominent place in your home. Recite it along with your mealtime prayer this next week. Refer to it regularly. An example would be, "I/We commit to love God and neighbor to the glory of God in Christ Jesus and for the sake of the needs of the world."



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)