

FEBRUARY 15, 2015
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking+ faith home

Jesus shows us God's care for people.

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 1:40-45	Jesus shows compassion
Monday	Isaiah 49:8-13	The Lord has compassion
Tuesday	Isaiah 54:7-10	God's deep compassion
Wednesday	Mark 6:30-34	Jesus' compassion for a crowd
Thursday	Mark 8:1-8	Jesus acts with compassion
Friday	Matthew 20:29-34	Jesus' compassion for the blind
Saturday	Psalms 103:8-13	The Lord is compassionate
Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	The temptation of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Sing praises to the Lord, you who belong to him; praise his holy name.
His anger lasts only a moment, but his kindness lasts for a lifetime.
Psalm 30:4-5 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, thank you for looking at us with compassion and care. Please reach out and touch us with your love. Amen. (Mark 1:41)

Mealtime Prayer:

Our hands we fold, our heads we bow. For food and drink, we thank God now. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God show you his kindness, touch you with his love and bring you his healing. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is compassion? In what ways have you seen people show compassion for others?
- A man with leprosy came to Jesus asking for his help. What needs and concerns do you have to bring to Jesus today?
- Jesus was "filled with compassion" for the man and healed him. In what ways has Jesus showed you his love and compassion?

DEVOTIONS

The church season of Lent begins this coming Wednesday, February 18. The first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday. Traditionally, this is a day for Christians to remember that we are sinners and that we need a Savior. Observe Ash Wednesday in your home by marking one another with ashes. Burn some paper and crush it into fine ashes. Then mix the ashes with a small amount of olive oil. Make the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads as you say these words:

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn back to God and believe in the good news of Jesus.

SERVICE

In Jesus' time, lepers not only suffered because of their sickness. They were also social outcasts. When Jesus healed the leper he gave him a whole new beginning in life. Talk about people you know who may feel left out at school, church or in the community. Plan to invite such a person for a meal or to be part of a household activity. Pray for him/her as a household.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Police, fire and ambulance sirens are often a sign that people are in need of help, protection or healing. Develop the household practice of pausing when you hear a siren and saying a simple prayer for the emergency personnel and those they are seeking to help. Ask God to watch over them and to show them his compassion and kindness.



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