

JULY 19, 2015
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking⁺ faith home

Jesus cares about us very much.

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 6:30-34,53-56	Jesus teaches and heals
Monday	Jeremiah 50:6-7	God the true pasture
Tuesday	Zechariah 9:14-17	God will save the flock
Wednesday	Luke 15:1-7	Parable of the lost sheep
Thursday	2 Samuel 5:1-12	David is to shepherd Israel
Friday	Acts 20:16,25-38	Paul teaches the elder shepherds
Saturday	Psalms 100	We are God's sheep
Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When Jesus arrived, he saw a great crowd waiting. He felt sorry for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things. Mark 6:34 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, lead us today to quiet places where we can rest with you. Amen. (Mark 6:31)

Mealtime Prayer:

Our Good Shepherd feeds us. Our Good Shepherd leads us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord touch you with love, show you kindness and bring you healing. Amen. (Mark 6:34,55-56)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sorry for someone. When did you need someone to feel sorry for you?
- Mark 6:34 tells us that Jesus cared very much about the people who came to see him and listen to him. In what ways has Jesus shown his care for you?
- In what ways do you need Jesus' care right now?

DEVOTIONS

Jesus took his disciples away with him to a quiet place (Mark 6:31-32). Spend some time together in silence during your household devotional times this week. Light a candle to represent the presence of Jesus with you. Focus together on the candle in your silence. Then, share with each other the thoughts that came to you during this time.

SERVICE

Many people looked to Jesus for teaching, healing and guidance. His ministry was very busy and demanding. Those in helping professions (e.g. teachers, doctors, pastors, nurses, firefighters, police officers and others) have many demands placed on them. Their work can be very tiring and sometimes stressful. Think of a way you can show your appreciation and support to someone in such a profession and plan to do so.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Ephesians 2:21-22 tells us God is at work joining people together and building them up so that they are like a "holy temple for the Lord," a place for God's own Spirit to live. As a symbol of God's construction work in your lives, have fun together making a tent in your home out of blankets, chairs and other furniture. Fill it with cushions and pillows. Gather inside to read and hear favorite Bible stories or to play a board game or card game.



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