

NOVEMBER 1, 2015  
TWENTY-THIRD  
SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

Loving God and our neighbors.

## 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 12:28-34	Love God and neighbor
Monday	Leviticus 19:1-2, 13-18	Love your neighbor as yourself
Tuesday	Proverbs 3:27-32	Do not withhold good
Wednesday	Luke 10:25-37	Who is my neighbor
Thursday	Romans 13:8-14	Love fulfills the law
Friday	James 2:1-13	Keeping the royal law
Saturday	Psalms 15	The way of the righteous
Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Listen, Israel! The Lord our God is the only true God! So love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength."  
Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (CEV)

### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, help us to love you today with heart, soul, mind and strength. Amen.  
(Mark 12:30)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Bless this meal, O God, we pray, and bless us too all through the day. Keep us safe and close to you, and kind in all we say and do. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God lead you in his ways, and give you the strength to do all he asks. Amen. (Psalm 119:1-8)

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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What does it mean to put your whole self into something? Can you give any examples from your own life?
- God wants each of us to love him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30). What does this mean in practice?
- We are each made differently. When it comes to serving God and others, are you more of a "thinker" (someone who uses your mind) or a "doer" (someone of practical action)?

## DEVOTIONS

Cut out heart-shaped pieces of paper. As part of your home devotion times this week, share ways in which you have been led to show love for God and others during the day, and ways in which you have experienced God's love from others. Write the responses onto the paper hearts. Post the hearts around a doorway in your house. Pray for God's help to love him and others more.

## SERVICE

Jesus linked together closely the commands to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We show love for God by showing love to our neighbors. As you think forward to your household celebration of Christmas (only seven or so weeks to go!), consider how you might share God's love with your neighbors or with someone who is lonely or in need. Begin to make plans to do so.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Through Moses, God instructed the people of Israel to tie his commands as symbols on their hands, to bind them to their foreheads, and to write them on their doorframes and gates (Deuteronomy 6:9). Find some large rubber bands or strips of cloth. Write on them these words: *Heart-Soul-Mind-Strength*. Wear these on your wrists this week as a reminder of God's call for us to love him in all that we do.



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