

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+  
faith  
home

*God pursues us with love and mercy.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin
Monday	Psalms 51:1-10	A prayer for forgiveness
Tuesday	Judges 10:6-16	The Israelites repent
Wednesday	John 10:10-18	Jesus, the good shepherd
Thursday	Romans 5:1-11	Christ died for sinners
Friday	2 Peter 3:8-13	That all may come to repentance
Saturday	Psalms 85	Restore us again, O God
Sunday	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You are kind, God! Please have pity on me. You are always merciful!  
Please wipe away my sins. Wash me clean from all of my sin and guilt.

**Psalm 51:1-2 (CEV)**

**SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Create in us clean hearts, O God. Give us a new spirit that is faithful to you. Amen. (Psalm 51:10)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

In grace you seek us and with love you feed us. Lord, help us serve all those who need us. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who forgives your sins and who pursues you with grace and mercy, grant you a new and right spirit. Amen. (Psalm 51:1 and 10)



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Share about a time when you lost something. What did you do?
- Talk about a time when you were lost. How did it feel not knowing where to go?
- Read Luke 15:1-10. How do people get “lost” or wander away from God? How does God pursue us when we are lost?

## DEVOTIONS

In the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, neither the sheep nor the coin has the power to be found. A woman and a shepherd actively search out that which is lost. Repentance is often understood as our human act that says, “Next time I will try harder.” In Luke the emphasis is on God who befriends “sinners and tax collectors,” those who are lost (Luke 15:1-10). Biblical repentance acknowledges that we are lost and need a savior to find us. It says, “You are kind, God! Please have pity on me. You are always merciful! Please wipe away my sins” (Psalm 51:1). Reflect on ways you feel lost in your relationship to people and to God. For each thought say aloud, “**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me**” Psalm 51:10). End with the Lord’s Prayer.

## SERVICE

Take a large garbage bag and go for a neighborhood walk. Collect as many “lost” or discarded items as you can find.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Hide real or chocolate coins in your house and play a good old-fashioned game of “hide and seek.” If you use real coins, spend what you find on a treat for the household. Talk about how God rejoices when people who are lost from him return.

Work together on completing a puzzle. As you do, talk about how each piece in the puzzle is needed and has a special place. And, how, in a similar way, each one of us is valuable to God and is sought out by God. Share about the special qualities you see in one another.



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)