

# TAKING FAITH HOME

HEARING GOD'S WORD BRINGS NEW LIFE AND GROWTH.

13 July 2014



## mealttime prayer

From soil and seed you give us food to chew. May we grow up your works to do. Our praise and thanks we give to you. Amen.

## verse for the week

"The seeds that fell on good ground are the people who hear and understand the message. They produce as much as a hundred or sixty or thirty times what was planted."

MATTHEW 13:23 (CEV)

## blessing

May God's Word take root in your heart. May you grow as his child and produce good things for him. Amen.

(MATTHEW 13:23)

## FAITH 5™ FAITH ACTS IN THE HOME



**share** your highs and lows of the day or discuss some of the questions from the **FOURKEYS** caring conversations.



**read** and highlight a passage of scripture in your Bible. These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

<b>Sunday</b>	Matthew 13:1-9,18-23	Parable of the sower and seed
<b>Monday</b>	Leviticus 26:3-20	A rich and poor harvest
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mark 4:26-32	Two parables of seeds
<b>Wednesday</b>	John 5:24-29	Hearing Jesus' words
<b>Thursday</b>	Hebrews 4:12-13	The word of God is active
<b>Friday</b>	Hebrews 6:1-8	Growing to maturity
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalms 1	The tree that prospers
<b>Sunday</b>	Matthew 13:24-30,36-43	Parable of the weeds



**talk** about how the Bible passage relates to your highs and lows or discuss some of the ideas in **FOURKEYS** devotions.



**pray** for your highs and lows, for your family, and for the world.



**bless** one another using the above blessing or make up your own.

## FOURKEYS

for practising faith

Discuss in your household or small group:

### 1. caring conversations

- How have you grown over this past year (e.g. physically, socially, emotionally, vocationally, intellectually, spiritually)? What things have helped you to grow?
- In the parable of the sower and the seed, Jesus spoke about four different seeds. Can you recall what happened to each?
- In your faith life at present, are you more like the path, the rocky ground, the thorn patch or the good soil? Explain your answer.

### 2. devotions

Gather four small pots or containers. Fill the first with gravel to represent a path, the second with rocks, the third with thorns or thistles, and the fourth with good soil. Place these in your home devotional area. As part of your household devotional times this week, say the following prayer:

*Lord God, please keep us from having hearts that are hard, like a path. Keep us from having hearts that are shallow, like soil on rocky ground. Keep us from having hearts that are easily choked, like seeds among thorns. Instead, make our hearts like good soil, so that we gladly receive your word and accept it. Amen.*

### 3. service

Volunteer some time as a household to assist a neighbour or a needy person in your community to tidy up their garden or yard.

### 4. rituals & traditions

For a household activity, plant flower seeds in containers filled with potting soil. Place in a sunny window and take turns in watering them over the next few weeks. Enjoy watching new life emerge!



Developed by Pastor Greg Priebbenow (St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bundaberg) in partnership with Lutheran Church of Australia, Grow Ministries. FOR USE SOLELY IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

