



TAKING FAITH home

14 December 2014
ADVENT 3B

THIS WEEK'S THEME:
The news of Jesus' birth makes us joyful.

mealtime prayer

Lord God, you fill the hungry with good things. With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Saviour. Amen.
LUKE 1:46-47,51

verse for the week

The Lord makes me very happy; all that I am rejoices in my God. He has covered me with clothes of salvation and wrapped me with a coat of goodness.
ISAIAH 61:10

blessing

May the God of peace make you holy in every way. May your whole self be kept safe and without fault from now until our Lord Jesus Christ returns. Amen.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:23

FAITH 5



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



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.

Sunday	John 1:6-8,19-28	John's witness to the light
Monday	John 8:12, 9:1-7	Jesus, the light of the world
Tuesday	John 3:19-21	Come into the light
Wednesday	John 16:19-24	Jesus speaks of joy
Thursday	Acts 16:16-34	A jailer is filled with joy
Friday	Isaiah 51:3,11-16	Joy will return to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 36	In your light we see light
Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold



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



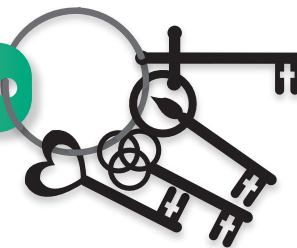
pray for your highs and lows, for your family, and for the world.



bless one another using this week's blessing or make up your own.

FOUR KEYS

for the Home



1. Faith Talk

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What does it mean to be joyful? Share about a time when you were filled with joy.
- Is there a difference between joy and happiness? Explain your answer.
- The apostle Paul tells Christians to "be joyful always". Why can all Christians be joyful? How do we show our joy?



2. Devotional Practices

This week, light the first, second and third candles on your home Advent Wreath. In doing so, use the following words:

The third candle on our Advent Wreath is the SHEPHERD CANDLE. When the shepherds heard the news of Jesus' birth, they went to Bethlehem with joy. Because of Jesus, we can rejoice in God's love.

Have a household member read Luke 2, verses 7 to 14. Then say this prayer together, repeating after the leader: **Lord Jesus, the good news of your birth makes us joyful. Like the shepherds, help us to come to you with joy this Christmas. Amen.**



3. Service

Sometimes the word "joy" is used to spell out the words JESUS-OTHERS-YOURSELF. We show the joy that we have because of Jesus by putting others ahead of ourselves. Share your Christmas joy with your neighbours by baking Christmas cookies for them. If possible, use icing to write the word "joy" on the cookies.



4. Rituals and Traditions

Set up a shoebox as an empty manger in a prominent spot in your home (e.g. on the kitchen table). Next to the manger place a little bundle of "straw" (if you don't have real straw, shredded paper will do). Each evening get together as a household and talk about the good things you've done for others during the day. For every good deed done, the person who did the good deed gets to place one straw in the manger. On Christmas Eve, place a baby Jesus figure in the manger, on the soft bed you've made for him with your good deeds.



Developed by Pastor Greg Priebbenow (St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bundaberg) in partnership with Lutheran Church of Australia, Grow Ministries www.growministries.org.au

