



# TAKING FAITH home

4 January 2015  
CHRISTMAS 2B

THIS WEEK'S THEME:

Jesus became human  
to show us God's love.

## mealttime prayer

Come Lord Jesus,  
come. Come and  
bless our food and  
our home. Come to  
dwell with us. Amen.

## verse for the week

So the Word became human  
and made his home among us.  
He was full of unfailing love and  
faithfulness. And we have seen  
his glory, the glory of the Father's  
one and only Son.  
JOHN 1:14

## blessing

Child of God, may Jesus  
bless you with his loving  
kindness, over and over  
again. Amen.  
JOHN 1:16

## 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 1:10-18	The Word became a human being
Monday	Ezekiel 37:15-28	God will dwell with his people
Tuesday	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the wise men
Wednesday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations come to the light
Thursday	1 Kings 10:1-13	Sheba's queen visits Solomon
Friday	John 19:38-42	Nicodemus brings myrrh
Saturday	Psalms 72	Kings will present him gifts
Sunday	Genesis 1:1-5	In the beginning



**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:

- Which people are "close" to you? How did that come to be?
- Jesus, God the Son, became human. He showed us God's love by living with us. In what ways did he show that love?
- Is it important to you that Jesus became human? Why?



## 2. Devotional Practices

The Gospel of John calls Jesus "the Word" (John 1:1,14). In his life on earth, Jesus said and did many things that "spoke out" God's grace and truth to us. As a household, make a list of your favourite sayings of Jesus. Print or write these out in large print, and display these on the walls of your home. Say a prayer for all the ways in which you have heard of God's love through Jesus.



## 3. Service

God came in person in Jesus to show us his love. As a household, arrange to make a personal visit to the home of someone in your community (e.g. an elderly or homebound person). Set out to show them God's love through your words and actions.



## 4. Rituals and Traditions

January 6 (Tuesday) is the festival day of Epiphany for the church. The word epiphany means "to show", "to make known" or "to reveal." It is linked to the visit of the wise men who brought royal gifts to the Christ child, "revealing" him to the world as Lord and King. There are many wonderful household traditions associated with Epiphany. Choose one or more of the following ideas to introduce into your home.

1. Have a home candlelight evening – turn off all lights and use only candles to guide you. If it is a clear night, take a few minutes to look at the stars.
2. Play dress-ups – put on costumes to represent the wise men.
3. Have an Epiphany treasure hunt – hide a baby Jesus figure somewhere in your home and have household members search for it.
4. Make stars out of card and paint them gold or yellow. Hang them throughout your home.
5. An old Epiphany tradition involves hiding small items in cake. On the night before the feast of Epiphany, a special cake would be served with three beans hidden within. Whoever found the beans would be the kings at the Epiphany feast. In line with this tradition, bake a cake with coins inside. Give those who find the coins a paper crown to wear.



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](http://www.growministries.org.au)

