



# TAKING FAITH home

23 August 2015  
PENTECOST 13B

THIS WEEK'S THEME:  
standing firm in our faith

## mealttime prayer

You give us bread for living, O God. Save us from living for bread. Amen.

## verse for the week

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."  
JOSHUA 24:15

## blessing

May you respect the Lord and be faithful to him. May the words of Jesus give you eternal life. Amen.

## 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 6:56-69             | Many disciples desert Jesus      |
| Monday    | Exodus 32:1-8, 19-20     | God's people fall away           |
| Tuesday   | Matthew 19:16-22         | A young man goes away sad        |
| Wednesday | Luke 9:57-62             | The cost of following Jesus      |
| Thursday  | 1 John 2:18-25           | The departure of some            |
| Friday    | Hebrews 10:32-39         | Don't throw away your confidence |
| Saturday  | Psalms 73                | God is good to the faithful      |
| Sunday    | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 | Authentic religion               |



**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 is something in life you find difficult or struggle with?
- Some of the people who were following Jesus couldn't accept his teachings and went away (John 6:60-66). In what ways is following Jesus hard for you?
- The apostle Paul writes, "be strong in the Lord and his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10). What strengthens your faith or helps you to keep on following Jesus?



## 2. Devotional Practices

Work together as a household to draw a suit of armour, including the following pieces: belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet and sword (if you have younger children, you could play a game of dress-up). Throughout the week read St. Paul's description of the "armour of God" in Ephesians 6:13-18 (maybe one or two verses each day) and discuss what each part means.



## 3. Service

The apostle Paul says, "At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people." (Ephesians 6:18) One of the most important ways we serve others is by praying for them! Make up a list of members of your congregation to pray for by name this week. Place the list in a prominent place in your home or give each household member a list to carry with them throughout the week.



## 4. Rituals and Traditions

Read Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18. Talk about what it means for your household to "serve the Lord". Work together to write a statement that begins: "As a household we will serve the Lord by ..." Print out your statement and place it up on a wall in your home.



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