

23 August 2015 PENTECOST 13B

THIS WEEK'S THEME:

Standing firm in our faith



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.





Share your highs and lows of the day or discuss some of the questions from the

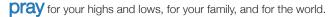


read and highlight a passage of scripture in your Bible. These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

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	Psalm 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 ROUNCYS DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES.



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



for the Home





I. 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.





