

# TAKING FAITH HOME

12th May 2013



the *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>	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for the disciples
<b>Monday</b>	Romans 15:1-5	A spirit of unity
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	An appeal for unity
<b>Wednesday</b>	Philippians 2:1-4	One in spirit and purpose
<b>Thursday</b>	Ephesians 2:13-22	Christ himself is our peace
<b>Friday</b>	1 Peter 3:8-12	Live in harmony
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalms 133	How pleasant is unity
<b>Sunday</b>	Acts 2:1-21	Filled with the Holy Spirit



**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 following blessing or make up your own.

## mealtime prayer

God, your love for us has filled our table. May our love for each other bring praise to you. Amen.

## verse for the week

"I want them to be brought together perfectly as one. This will let the world know that you sent me."

JOHN 17:23 (NIRV)

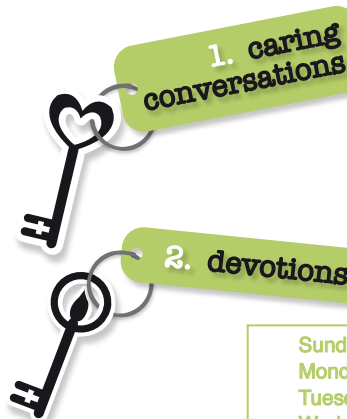
## blessing

May God protect you and rescue you. May he show you the way and fill you with happiness. Amen.

PSALM 97:10-11

# FOURKEYS

for practising faith



Discuss in your household or small group:

- What things cause people to fight? At home? In the church?
- Jesus prayed to his Father in Heaven that his followers would have "perfect unity". (John 17:23). What do you think he meant?
- How can you be more "at one" with other Christians you know?

Jesus prayed that his disciples would be "brought together perfectly as one." Make Christian unity a focus in your household devotion times this week. Here are some prayer suggestions:

**Sunday:** Pray for peace and unity in your congregation;  
**Monday:** Pray for peace and unity in your church denomination;  
**Tuesday:** Pray for peace and unity in the homes of your congregation;  
**Wednesday:** Pray for peace and unity between churches of different types;  
**Thursday:** Pray for peace and unity between marriage partners;  
**Friday:** Pray for peace and unity between parents and children;  
**Saturday:** Pray for peace and unity in your own home.

Conclude your prayer times with a candle ritual. Light one central candle and give each household member an unlit candle. At the same time, light your individual candles from the central candle. Pray this prayer together:

**Jesus, Light of the world: Draw us to your light, so that we grow together as a household, united in your love. Keep us at peace with each other. Amen.**



May 12 is "Mother's Day". Show appreciation to mothers this week. If a mother lives in your home, plan ways to serve her this week. If your mother is absent, take time to pray for her or say a prayer of thanks for her role in your life. If possible, phone, email or write to her.



Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. It is often thought of as the birthday of the church. In preparation, make a special "church birthday cake" to enjoy together at home. The cake can be a home-made or store-bought layer cake with white icing. In the centre of the cake place a large white candle to represent Christ our Light, who promised to send the Holy Spirit. Around it place 12 white birthday candles, representing the Apostles receiving the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire. If possible, add 7 red-wrapped chocolate hearts and 7 red ribbons to represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2-3), and 9 strawberries to represent the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Involve the whole household in decorating the cake. Review together the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Before the cake is cut on Pentecost Sunday, have household members blow out the candles "with a mighty rushing wind"!



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