

# TAKING FAITH HOME

8th September 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>	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
<b>Monday</b>	Matthew 10:34-42	The cost of discipleship
<b>Tuesday</b>	Matthew 16:21-26	Taking up our cross
<b>Wednesday</b>	Acts 5:17-41	Suffering for Jesus' sake
<b>Thursday</b>	Philippians 3:7-14	Sharing in Jesus' sufferings
<b>Friday</b>	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering as Christians
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalms 101	Choosing God's law
<b>Sunday</b>	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin



**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

For the food we share, for loved ones who care, and for days so fair - we thank you, God. Amen.

## verse for the week

"Choose life! Be completely faithful to the Lord your God, love him, and do whatever he tells you. The Lord is the only one who can give life."

DEUTERONOMY 30:19B-20A (CEV)

## blessing

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

PHILEMON 3

## FOURKEYS

for practising faith



1. caring conversations

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is the best thing about being a follower of Jesus? What is the most difficult thing?
- Jesus said that we must "give up everything" to be his disciples. How do you understand his words? What has Jesus given up for you?

2. devotions

St. Paul wrote these words to his friend Philemon: "I always thank God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints" (Philemon 4-5). In your home devotion times this week, pray by name for your Christian friends. Send them cards containing this verse.

3. service

St. Paul gave his love, care and support to a young man called Onesimus whom he met in prison. Who in your community is experiencing hard times due to illness, loss of work or separation from family? Choose people who will be for you the "ONES I MUST SERVE" this week. Make them a meal, do an act of service for them (e.g. mow their lawn or help clean their home) or offer friendship to them.

4. rituals & traditions

Jesus said "anyone who does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). This means that we sometimes have to do things that we don't want to do or that are hard. Invite household members to think of one "hard thing" they could attempt this week as a follower of Jesus e.g. be friendly to someone who has no friends, make peace with someone they are fighting with, work on a bad habit. Make small crosses out of wire to carry (e.g. in your clothes pockets) as a reminder of Jesus' words.

## ParentWord - Household Spiritual Goal-Setting

Many people make plans for their financial future but few approach their spiritual lives in the same way. In Luke 14 we find Jesus encouraging us to think carefully about what it means to follow him and to plan our whole lives accordingly. Make time this week to talk about your household's spiritual goals. As a community of Jesus' disciples, what would you like to (a) keep doing; (b) stop doing; (c) start doing; (d) do differently? Set one or two goals for your spiritual life (e.g. "We would like to pray together more", "We would like to serve others more"). Brainstorm ideas for working towards this goal and decide on one or more action steps. Print up your goal/s on a poster or large piece of paper and place in a prominent spot in your home. Revisit your goal/s in the coming months.



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Written by Pastor Greg Priebbenow (St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bundaberg) in partnership with Faith Incubators Australia [www.fithink.com.au](http://www.fithink.com.au) FOR USE SOLELY IN AUSTRALIA

