

TAKING FAITH HOME

ADVENT IS A SEASON OF FAITH AND HOPE

15 December 2013



mealttime prayer

We praise you, O God, for you are good and faithful. You meet our needs of body and soul. In you we trust and hope. Amen.

verse for the week

Be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

JAMES 5:8 (TNIV)

blessing

God is coming to save you. May he calm your fears and give you a brave heart. Amen.

(ISAIAH 35:4)

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.

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| Sunday | Matthew 11:2-11 | Jesus and John the Baptist |
| Monday | Malachi 3:1-4 | A messenger is promised |
| Tuesday | Isaiah 61:1-7 | The Lord's anointed one |
| Wednesday | Matthew 9:27-31 | The blind receive sight |
| Thursday | Matthew 9:2-7 | The lame walk |
| Friday | Luke 1:5-25 | The birth of John announced |
| Saturday | Psalms 146:5-10 | God lifts up those bowed down |
| Sunday | Matthew 1:18-25 | Immanuel – God with us |



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 above blessing or make up your own.

FOURKEYS

for practising faith



Discuss in your household or small group:

- Are you a patient person? In what ways are you impatient?
- The apostle James encourages us to be patient until the Lord's coming and not to lose our faith (James 5:7-10). What things cause people to fall away from trusting Jesus?
- What helps us keep our faith in Jesus strong?



In the third week of Advent light the first, second and third Advent candles, and say these words:

SAY: This is the third week of Advent. We light our third candle as a sign of the hope we have in Jesus. Jesus came to bring us hope, and we are looking forward to his coming again with patience and faith. (The candles are lit).

READ: Read one of the following passages: Psalm 52:9; Psalm 130:7; Jeremiah 29:11; Matthew 12:18-21; Romans 15:12; 2 Corinthians 1:10; Hebrews 10:23.

PRAY: Let us pray: **God, in this time of preparation for Christmas, give us new hope. Increase our faith in your Son Jesus and our trust in your promises. Amen.**



As you arrange gifts for one another, prepare a Christmas gift of non-perishable food items to donate to a local charity for a needy individual or household in your community. You may include a Christmas craft item or a signed card from your household.



Place figures from a nativity scene in different parts of your house. Each day have household members move them closer towards the manger scene, so that they arrive on the day before Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day place the baby Jesus figure into the nativity scene.



Developed by Pastor Greg Priebbenow (St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bundaberg) in partnership with Lutheran Church of Australia, Grow Ministries.
FOR USE SOLELY IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

