

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014
15TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

God is amazingly generous!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Titus 3:3-7	The generosity of God
Tuesday	1 Timothy 6:17-19	God provides richly
Wednesday	Ephesians 1:3-8	The riches of God's grace
Thursday	Romans 11:33-36	God owes us nothing
Friday	John 1:14-18	One blessing after another
Saturday	Psalms 65:9-13	God's bountiful gifts
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"You are merciful, Lord! You are kind and patient and always loving."
Psalm 145:8 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, you are so generous to us. Help us to be generous to others.
Amen. (Matthew 20:1-16)

Mealtime Prayer:

God so generous, God so good, we thank you for our daily food. Bless our meal and with us stay, guide and keep us through this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be kind to you and help you to live for him. Amen. (Psalm 145:8-9; Philippians 1:21)



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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt you were treated unfairly.
- Jesus told a parable about some vineyard workers (read Matthew 20:1-16). How do you think you would have felt if you were one of those hired first? How would you have felt if you were one of those hired last?
- Should we be bothered if we see God being generous to others? Why or why not?

DEVOTIONS

When Jonah was thrown overboard into the sea, God kept him from drowning by sending a whale to swallow him (Jonah 1:15-17). Draw or cut out a picture of whale. When you gather for your evening meals this week, share ways in which God provided for you during the day. Write these onto "sticky notes" and attach them to your whale. Say a prayer of thanks to God for his generosity to your household.

SERVICE

Psalm 145:4 says: "Each generation will announce to the next your wonderful deeds." Talk about people from older or younger generations who have shared Christ with you. Draw them a picture, make them a card or write them a note to say thanks. If possible, invite them to your home to share a meal with you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

September 21st is the day on which the Christian church remembers the apostle Matthew, one of Jesus' original twelve apostles (most of the Gospel readings for this year are from Matthew's Gospel). One day, while Matthew (also called Levi) was seated at his table of books and money, Jesus looked at him and said two words: "Follow me." This was all that was needed to make Matthew rise and leave behind his pieces of silver to follow Christ. Matthew then hosted a great banquet at his home to which he invited his fellow tax-collectors. The Jews were surprised to see Jesus with a tax collector, but Jesus explained that he had come "not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Luke 5:27-32). Host a "Matthew Party" at your home this week. Invite friends from your church to join you. Share your favorite stories from the Gospel of Matthew and whatever information you can discover from books or the Internet about the later life and ministry of Saint Matthew.



Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.