

NOVEMBER 23, 2014
CHRIST THE KING
SUNDAY

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We give thanks to God, our
King, by serving those in need.

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 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats
Monday	Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35	Care given to the needy
Tuesday	Romans 12:13-21	Share with the needy
Wednesday	Proverbs 11:16-30	The fruit of the righteous
Thursday	Luke 17:11-19	Giving praise to God
Friday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Thanks be to God
Saturday	Psalms 65	We are filled with good things
Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, help us to serve you each day by serving others. Amen.
(Matthew 25:40)

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you for the world so sweet; thank you for the food we eat; thank you for the birds that sing; thank you, God, for everything. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you the Holy Spirit so that you grow to know God better.
Amen. (Ephesians 1:17)



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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What does it mean to be thankful? For what are you thankful?
- Is giving thanks more of a choice or a feeling?
- One way we show our thanks to God is by sharing with others, especially those you are in need. In what ways do you do this?

DEVOTIONS

Create a "Thanksgiving Box" to use this week. Ask your children to decorate the outside of a shoebox with typical Thanksgiving symbols. Keep this box in a conspicuous place, such as your kitchen table. Each day leading up to Thanksgiving Day, ask household members to reflect on their day, recall things for which they are thankful, and write these down on slips of paper to place in the box. On Thanksgiving Day, open the box and read what has been written. Say a prayer of thanks for all God has done for you and given to you.

SERVICE

When we serve others in Jesus' name, we are serving Jesus himself (Matthew 25:40). This week, when you offer prayers of thanks for the food on your table and say your mealtime blessings, remember those who go without. As you prepare your Thanksgiving meal, cook some extra food that you can freeze in portions to give to persons in need of assistance in the coming weeks or months. Also consider inviting a widow, single person or someone who is lonely to share in your household Thanksgiving meal.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Household holiday traditions, like Thanksgiving, are a wonderful way to connect with your children. It may seem easier to just do it all ourselves, but we lose out on the benefits that come from making Thanksgiving a household affair. Use these ideas to create Thanksgiving traditions that include everyone.

- Let your children help prepare the meal by including them in tasks that can be done ahead of time. Let little ones wash up veggies. Teach an older child to make Grandma's apple pie. Teenagers could be allowed to come up with their own side dish to make.
- Children can help decorate and prepare the table for Thanksgiving dinner. Encourage their creativity. They could make place markers, create a menu or design a table centerpiece (e.g. leaves, acorns, and pine cones placed on a platter or in a bowl).
- Involve the children in saying Thanksgiving prayers.
- Plan activities that the children can participate in (e.g. board games).
- Make sure the children play a part in the cleaning up, too!



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