

DECEMBER 28, 2014
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS DAY

taking⁺ faith home

In Jesus we see God's salvation.

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	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple
Monday	Titus 2:11-14	Salvation has appeared
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 6:1-2	Now is the day of salvation
Wednesday	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord is doing a new thing
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	For everything a season
Friday	James 4:13-15	If it is the Lord's will
Saturday	Psalms 148	All creation praises God
Sunday	John 1:10-18	The Word became a human being

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people."
Luke 2:30-31 (NLT)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for Jesus, our salvation. Let all you have made praise you! Amen. (Luke 2:30, Psalm 148)

Mealtime Prayer:

Praise the Lord, all men, women and children, for he gives us food for our bodies and Jesus as our Savior. Amen. (Psalm 148:12-13, Luke 2:30-31)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord make you strong and wise, and bless you with his saving grace. Amen. (Luke 2:40)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Have you ever waited a long time for something? How did you feel when the waiting was over?
- What was Simeon waiting for? (Luke 2:25-35) How did he react when he held the baby Jesus in his arms?
- Imagine yourself in the place of Simeon. What would you say?

DEVOTIONS

Psalms 148 encourages all that God has made to praise him. Use this psalm as a basis for writing your own household psalm of praise, incorporating familiar or contemporary images and ideas.

SERVICE

In the temple in Jerusalem, Simeon and Anna encouraged and blessed two young, first-time parents, Mary and Joseph. Contact parents with young children in your church or community and offer to carry out a household act of service on their behalf (e.g. help with cleaning, ironing or childcare) so they can enjoy some time out together.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Take time this New Year's Eve (Wednesday) to reflect on the past year together as a household. Play games together or plan a whole-household activity. As the evening proceeds, share memories, photos and videos from the past year. Consider these questions:

- What are some good things that have happened in the past year?
- What are the most difficult challenges your household has faced in the past year? What did you learn from them?
- In what ways have members of your household changed or grown over the past year?
- How has your relationship with God changed in the past year?
- What are your greatest hopes for the coming year?
- What are some challenges you see facing you in the coming year?

Finish with a time of prayer for one another, asking God to bless and care for one another in the year to come.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



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