

MARCH 1, 2015
SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking⁺ faith home

Lent is a time to follow Jesus.

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	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death
Monday	Mark 9:30-35	The Son of Man to be betrayed
Tuesday	Mark 10:32-45	Jesus again predicts his death
Wednesday	Matthew 16:21-26	Taking up the cross
Thursday	John 12:20-33	Jesus to be lifted up
Friday	Romans 6:6-14	Dying with Christ
Saturday	Psalms 68:19-20, 32-35	Praise to our God who saves
Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus clears the temple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said: "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me." Mark 8:34 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Great God, keep us from doubting your promises. Give us a faith that is strong and steady. Amen. (Romans 4:20)

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you, God, for you all you give. Without your gifts we would not live. May we do more than sip and swallow. May we trust your Son and always follow. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you have strong faith, so that you trust in God's promises and live to please God always. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- When is it easy to follow Jesus? When is it hard?
- Jesus said that if we want to be his followers, we need to forget about ourselves and put him first (Mark 8:34). What do you think this means?
- How do other people know that you are a follower of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Jesus tells us that following him means "taking up a cross," that is, saying no to ourselves and sometimes suffering for him. As part of your home devotional times this week, design crosses from wood, card stock, or other craft materials. Attach your crosses to a wall in your home. Print out the "Scripture Verse for the Week" and place it underneath your crosses. Throughout the week, share ways in which you have "taken up a cross" for Jesus' sake.

SERVICE

Making pretzels is a Lenten tradition. Pretzels are shaped like arms folded in prayer and can remind us to pray to God for our needs and the needs of others. Choose some people beyond your household to pray for by name this week. Make pretzels to give to them as a sign that you are praying for them.

Use the following recipe to make pretzels (the recipe lists the amount of ingredients per person): *Have each person sprinkle ½ tsp. of yeast into 3 tbsp. of warm water. Stir to dissolve. Add ½ tsp. of sugar, ½ cup of flour and 2 tbsp. of grated cheese. Stir, then knead until smooth. Cut the dough into four pieces and roll into a snake shape. Shape the four pieces like pretzels, then brush them with a beaten egg. Sprinkle with coarse ground salt. Bake on a baking sheet at 425 degrees Fahrenheit (220 degrees Celsius) for 15 minutes.*

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If you have not yet done so, set up a "crown of thorns" wreath in your home (see last week's *Taking Faith Home* edition). This week, light two purple candles. Read Mark 8:31 as you do so. Then say this prayer together:
**Lord Jesus, thank you for experiencing suffering and rejection for us.
Make us ready to follow you as our Lord and our Savior. Amen.**



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