

Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus
Monday	John 11:1-25	Jesus comforts Mary and Martha
Tuesday	John 5:24-30	Crossing over from death to life
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-22	All will be made alive
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	God will raise us with Jesus
Friday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	So encourage each other
Saturday	Psalms 49:1-15	God will redeem my life
Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering

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Scripture Verses for the Week:

Then the one sitting on the throne said:

"I am making everything new. Write down what I have said. My words are

true and can be trusted. Everything is finished! I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give water from the life-giving fountain to everyone who is thirsty."

– Revelation 21:5-6 (CEV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayer for this Week:

Lord God, thank you for the hope of eternal life. Help me to live for you each day. Amen.

For Throughout the Day:

Lord God, King of glory, please come into my life this day. Amen. (Psalm 24:9-10)

A Blessing to Share:

*May the Lord be with you, now and forever.
May he wipe away your tears, and fill your life with joy and hope.
Amen. (Revelation 21:3-4)*

Mealtime Refrain:

Our Lord Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega:
He is the beginning and the end. (Revelation 21:6)

Mealtime Prayer:

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and those who live upon it. Praise and thanks to God our maker! Amen.



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Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sad. Who or what made you feel better?
- When Jesus saw Mary mourning Lazarus, he also wept (John 11:35). What does this say to you about Jesus?
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. What does this mean to you?

Devotional Practices:

As part of your household devotional times this week, light candles for Christian friends and relatives who have died, whether recently or long ago. As each candle is lit, say these words together: "Thank you God for the life of (Name)."

Service:

Prepare cards to send to members of your congregation who have had loved ones die this past year (if unsure, ask your pastor to give you a list). Let them know that you will be praying for them, and make this part of your household devotional times.

Rituals and Traditions:

This week, visit a local cemetery as a household. Look together at the gravestones and the inscriptions on them. Talk about the Christian understanding of death, resurrection and eternal life. Share and discuss the following bible passages: John 11:25-26, 1 Corinthians 15:51-55, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Parent Toolbox: Children and Grief

Like adults, children are deeply affected by the death of someone they love or care about. Even the youngest children are able to sense loss and experience grief. That said, the ways they express their reactions and emotions may sometimes surprise adults. For instance, children may appear outwardly unconcerned about the death of a loved one, leading adults to think they are unaffected. But this does not mean they are not trying to make sense out of what has happened; only that their ways of doing so are less obvious or immediate. Their reactions may manifest over time in ways that, on the surface, may seem to be unrelated e.g. eating, sleeping or behavior patterns may change, or they may become insecure or clingy.

It is important that children are not "left out" when a death occurs. There seems to be no best way to give children sad news except perhaps to tell them immediately, and to tell them the truth in a simple, straightforward way. Words may not come easily when talking about death to children. However, concrete words like "died" and "death" are easier for children to comprehend than abstract expressions such as "passed on" or "gone away."

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