

**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 17:20-26	Jesus prays for the disciples
Monday	Romans 15:1-5	A spirit of unity
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	An appeal for unity
Wednesday	Philippians 2:1-4	One in spirit and purpose
Thursday	Ephesians 2:13-22	Christ himself is our peace
Friday	1 Peter 3:8-12	Live in harmony
Saturday	Psalms 133	How pleasant is unity
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	Filled with the Holy Spirit

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**Scripture Verse for the Week:**

"I will be in them, just as you are in me. I want them to be brought together perfectly as one. This will let the world know that you sent me. It will also show the world that you have loved those you gave me, just as you have loved me." - John 17:23 (NIRV)

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

**Prayer for this Week:**

Lord, bring salvation to my household, and fill my home with your joy. Amen. (Acts 16:31,34)

**For Throughout the Day:**

Lord Jesus, help me to become at one with Christians around me, so that our love points others to you. Amen. (John 17:23)

**A Blessing to Share:**

*May God protect you and rescue you. May he show you the way and fill you with happiness. Amen. (Psalm 97:10-11)*

**Mealtime Refrain:**

Jesus is coming soon: **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**  
(Revelation 22:20)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

*God, your love for us has filled our table. May our love for each other bring praise to you. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE



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SCRIPTURE



**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What things cause people to fight? At home? In the church?
- Jesus prayed to his Father in Heaven that his followers would have "perfect unity". (John 17:23). What do you think he meant?
- How can you be more "at one" with other Christians you know?

**Devotional Practices:**

Jesus prayed that his disciples would be "brought together perfectly as one." Make Christian unity a focus in your household devotion times this week. Here are some prayer suggestions:

- Sunday – Pray for peace and unity in your congregation;
- Monday – Pray for peace and unity in your church denomination;
- Tuesday – Pray for peace and unity in the households of your congregation;
- Wednesday – Pray for peace and unity between churches of different types;
- Thursday – Pray for peace and unity between marriage partners;
- Friday – Pray for peace and unity between parents and children;
- Saturday – Pray for peace and unity in your own household.

Conclude your prayer times with a candle ritual. Light one central candle and give each household member an unlit candle. At the same, light your individual candles from the central candle. Pray this prayer together:

*Jesus, Light of the world: Draw us to your light, so that we grow together as a household, united in your love. Keep us at peace with each other. Amen.*

**Service:**

Plan a social activity with another household in your congregation that you don't know very well as yet. Invite them to join you for an outing, a picnic, or a meal at your home.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. It is often thought of as the birthday of the church. In preparation, make a special "church birthday cake" to enjoy together at home. The cake can be a home-made or store-bought layer cake with white icing. In the center of the cake place a large white candle to represent Christ our Light, who promised to send the Holy Spirit. Around it place 12 white birthday candles, representing the apostles receiving the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire. If possible, add 7 red-wrapped chocolate hearts and 7 red ribbons to represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2-3), and 12 strawberries to represent the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Involve the whole household in decorating the cake. Use this as an opportunity to review together the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Before the cake is cut on Pentecost Sunday, have household members blow out the candles "with a mighty rushing wind"!

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