

God's Story Our Story



May 8, 2016

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone, as a couple, as a family; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Eternal Creator, you have given us a world where sin and death seem to hold all power. But we know the truth – you are all powerful. Remind us that you have conquered sin and death, and that in you we will live forever. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

To quell a debate over life after death, Paul wrote quite eloquently about new life made possible by the death and resurrection of Christ. Not only has Christ given us new life here on earth – a life driven not by fear, but by hope, faith, and love – but Christ has also made possible eternal life with our creator, God.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57, *Death Swallowed in Life*

Monday, 2 Corinthians 4:1-15, *Treasure in Clay Jars*

Tuesday, 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10, *Living by Faith*

Wednesday, 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13, *The Ministry of Reconciliation*

Thursday, 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, *Encouragement to Be Generous*

Friday, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15, *The Collection for Christians at Jerusalem*

Saturday, 2 Corinthians 10:1-18, *Paul Defends His Ministry*

What kinds of behaviors do these readings suggest for the Christian community?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

If death is inevitable, what is God's role in the death of a loved one?

What about an untimely death?

Who have you lost? Tell a story about them.

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Volunteer to bake some treats the next time there is a funeral at your church. If you are available, volunteer to serve at the funeral lunch. Try to notice how different people respond to death.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God remind you that Christ is victorious over death. Amen.