

## Family Devotions

Doing devotions with your family is a great way to be close and to share your faith. But it can be really hard to know what to do.

Here is an idea that works for lots of families [and that your kids hear about in Sunday School].

It is called Faith 5, and some great times to do it are during a meal or at bedtime.

**Share** your highs and lows of the day—what was good and what was hard about today?

**Read** a Bible verse or a story—use the highlighted Bible your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader got, the daily readings in the bulletin, or the Sunday School lesson.

**Talk** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows—this helps bring the bible to life for kids.

**Pray** for one another's highs and lows—e.g. God help my son focus in school.

**Bless** one another—make the sign of the cross on their forehead and say, “(Name), child of God, may you rest in the arms of God who loves you,” or make up your own favorite.

**Pick up a Faith 5 bookmark to put in your Bible and give it a try. It is a great way to strengthen your family bond.**



# Devotional Resources

Silverdale Lutheran Church

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## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Below is a guide to a selection of resources for your use as you contemplate your devotional life and work to enhance it.

Each section has been curated by an individual serving on the Silverdale Lutheran Church Devotions Team and offers guidance as well as resources on a particular area of devotional life.

Whether your devotional needs are created for individual time, small groups; if you're technologically driven or are focused on something tangible, there are resources for you to create a stronger connection with God.

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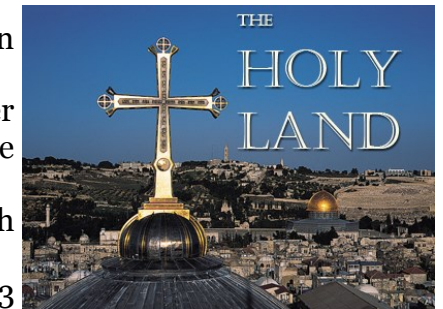
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What is a pilgrimage? A journey to a sacred place.

Come on a 2-week journey that will test you physically, mentally, and stretch your faith. Join a new group at Silverdale Lutheran that will work together in preparing and planning a trip to Israel to walk the 40-mile Jesus Trail from Nazareth to Capernaum, visit Jerusalem, and float in the Dead Sea in 2016 or 2017.

#### Pilgrimage Goals:

- ◆ Pledge to grow and walk in the footsteps of Jesus
- ◆ Thoughtful prayer for guidance in the preparation and journey to the Holy Land
- ◆ Promise to study the Bible as a group for a deeper faith experience in the months leading up to the trip
- ◆ Active participation in designing an itinerary with the group and taking turns leading devotions
- ◆ Commitment to physical training - walking 2-3 miles a day at least 8 months before the trip
- ◆ Purchase travel insurance and sign a waiver. Each pilgrim understands that travel poses some risks from political unrest to health issues
- ◆ Adhering to a “no grump policy”. Planning a trip of this magnitude with different personalities can both be a challenge and rewarding at the same time. Positive attitudes, willingness to work for the good of the group, and supporting one another will be part of the pilgrimage experience



Interested in learning more or joining this pilgrimage? Talk to Julie Gillies (email: [windrose144@gmail.com](mailto:windrose144@gmail.com)).

What was the inspiration for this pilgrimage?

Go to [pbs.org](http://pbs.org) and watch *Sacred Journeys with Bruce Feiler* - Jerusalem episode

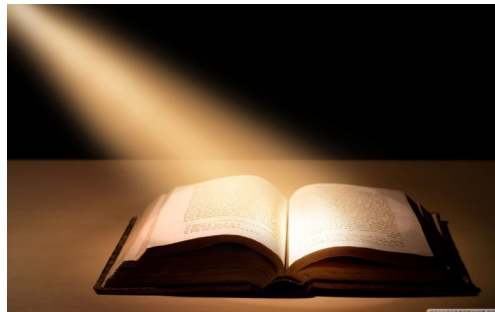
[www.jesustrail.com](http://www.jesustrail.com)

## Daily Devotional Books and Lending Library



A daily devotional book is a great way to begin or end your day; it will encourage you to get established in a routine to connect with God. Many people have found that setting aside a regular time each day to read and think about God's word, and to spend time in prayer, has been the power-house of their spiritual life and growth. Most daily devotional books begin with a verse or two, then a version of a person's view on that verse, and most end with a prayer – very often all on one page, so not a huge time commitment – similar to “Christ In Our Home”, but in book format. Daily devotional books come in many forms and styles – some specifically designed for women or men, teens or young children, positive thinking or grief support, and many other topics; some have days of the week, some days of the year, and some with no dates at all but still usable for self-study. Many times, the daily scripture reading can speak to your day and you may be encourage to see how God is speaking to you through his Word. You can even read them with a friend or family member and discuss the readings. Spend a quiet moment with a daily devotional book to renew your spirit and connect with God.

Check out the SLC Daily Devotional Lending Library in the big basket in the Narthex. If you don't find one there, review the basket list of other suggested titles you may find in a bookstore or online.

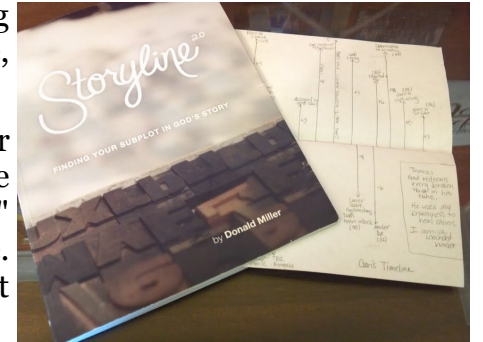


## Storyline: Finding Your Subplot In God's Story

Donald Miller, a well known author, has created a tool to help us put our life into perspective by using the idea of our life as a movie. *Storyline* is creative, fun and a great way to look at life.

First we look at the character in our story - our history, themes and how God redeems the negative. Then we figure "What roles do I play" and "What do I want" in this great movie of life. Then we anticipate and overcome conflict to get what we want.

*Storyline* is a fun tool that helps me with my relationships and work. I review my roles weekly which helped my devotional life and pulled my goals to the forefront.



## Small Group Bible Studies A Promise and an Invitation

*Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Mt.18:20*

As part of your devotions, please consider spending time with God in the Word and in prayer in the company of others in a small group. Jesus picked His own small group of twelve and shared His Word and prayer with them. Look what happened!

SLC is encouraging each of us to choose our own preferred forms of devotions, and to do them either on our own or with someone else, or in small groups. To facilitate the formation of these groups, there will be sign-ups for the congregation so that everyone can join a group formed that is close to where they live.

We all feel the time pressures of work, family and other commitments. But there are great rewards in taking time with friends, old and new, to pray together, share together, and to read, discuss and grow spiritually in God's Word together.

You are invited to join with others in a small group to share this time of devotion together.

If you are interested and would like to learn more, or have questions, please indicate that on the card and either place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.



Or, you could contact Mike or Kathy Havers at: 360-830-5370; or send an email to [haversmk@gmail.com](mailto:haversmk@gmail.com)

You will be embarking on a wonderful spiritual journey in the company of others.

## Tangible reminders of Being in God's Word and Prayer

### Scripture Medallion



The Scripture Medallion serves as a way to remind you to devote time *Being in God's Word and Prayer*.

Made from 100 year old plum wood, the Scripture Medallion has on one side a simple image that associates to a favorite scripture verse on the other side. The verse chosen serves as an entry point into scripture and your time *Being in God's Word and Prayer*.

If you would like a Scripture Medallion contact Wade Randall to share your favorite scripture verse and any "image ideas" you might have that will help you devote time to *Being in God's Word and Prayer*.

### Scripture Card

Daily Scripture Cards can be used as a way to remind you to devote time *Being in God's Word and Prayer*.

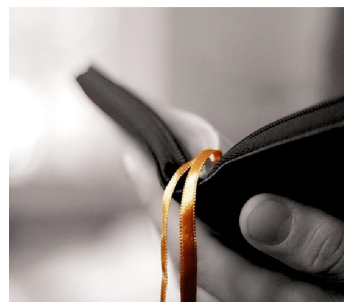
The sample verses written on these cards have been selected from the Lutheran Study Bible, Bible Reading Plan. Choosing a verse-a-day may help develop a habit of daily devotion and a desire to read more scripture, to go beyond a daily verse and spend more time *Being in God's Word and Prayer*.



The back of the card can be used to write a word or two that may come to mind after sharing time with God.

If you would like some of these Daily Scripture Cards contact the Devotional Team.

## Bulletin Devotionals



You are invited to use *Devotionals For This Week*, as found in the Sunday bulletin and the Beacon. These are daily readings from the *Narrative Lectionary*. The pastors add a couple clues to help us make the connection with the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday. If you follow these readings, you will work through the Biblical narrative from creation to the early church. The same narrative is covered each year for four years, but with different passages.

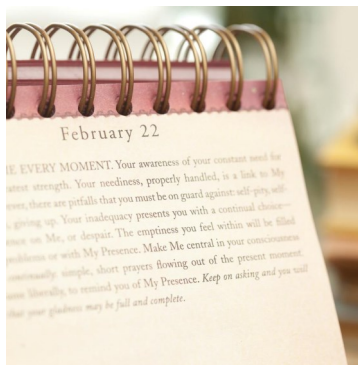
*A testimonial on using following daily readings from Don & Elaine Jukam:*

Shortly after we started to attend Silverdale Lutheran, Elaine and I decided to follow the daily readings of the Narrative Lectionary. (*Devotionals For This Week*.) On Mondays, there is a Psalm. Selected Scripture from both the Old and New Testament usually highlight the Gospel lesson for the previous Sunday. Sometimes there is a continuation of the Gospel.

It helps when the pastors make a comment or two to connect the daily readings with the Sunday texts. Sometimes it's a challenge to make the connections. (Occasionally, there may not be a connection.) Although we have been doing devotions for many years, we have often relied on a commentary to fully follow the narrative. The *Bible Guide* is a terrific one-volume commentary. (Check out a *Bible Guide* from the SLC Library.) At other times, it helps to read a few more verses.

We added three questions which we've found helpful as we reflect on the text for the day. 1. *What does this passage say about God/Jesus?* 2. *What does it mean to me?* 3. *What will I do in response to what I've just read?* These questions can be used with any portion of Scripture. As with any devotions, we usually end with prayer.

### Perpetual Calendar for Thrivent Members



If you are a Thrivent Member, you may call 1-800-Thrivent and order a desktop perpetual calendar. (Say "fraternal" when prompted.) Dates, but not days, are used so you can start or stop any time, any year. A brief thought is offered each day along with a Bible passage and a photo that illuminates the thought and Scripture. Although this perpetual calendar is a stand-alone devotion, it can also supplement anything you are currently using. It's equally at home on the kitchen table, desk or on the night stand.

## Reading The Scriptures: Comments and Recommendations by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Quotations below are taken from Bonhoeffer's book *Life Together*

"....for many the scripture reading consists only of a few , brief selected verses which are to form the guiding thought for the day. There can be no doubt that daily Bible passages ..... are a real blessing to all who have ever used them. But there can be equally little doubt that brief verses cannot and should not take the place of reading the Scripture as a whole."

"As a whole the Scriptures are God's revealing Word. Only in the infiniteness of its inner relationships, in the connection of the Old and New Testaments, of promise and fulfillment, sacrifice and law, law and gospel, cross and resurrection, faith and obedience, having and hope, will the full witness to Jesus Christ the Lord be perceived."

"A Christian family fellowship should surely be able to read and listen to a Chapter of the Old Testament and at least half of a chapter of the New Testament every morning and evening."

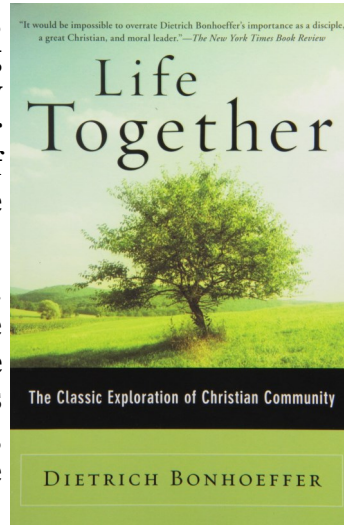
"God's Word is to be heard by everyone in his own way and according to the measure of his understanding."

"Because the Scripture is a corpus, a living whole, the so-called *lectio continua* or consecutive reading must be adopted for Scripture reading in the family fellowship."

"Consecutive reading of Biblical books forces everyone who wants to put himself, or to allow himself to be found, where God has acted once and for all for the salvation of men. We become part of what once took place for our salvation."

"How shall we read the Scriptures? In family devotions it is best that the various members thereof undertake the consecutive reading in turn. When this is done it will soon become apparent that it is not easy to read the Bible aloud for others. "

"The more artless, the more objective, the more humble one's attitude toward the material is, the better will the reading accord with the subject."



## Expanding Your Daily Devotionals through Technology

Devotional readings can be accessed with the following web sites through your email using your computer, smart phone or tablet. Below is a small sample of the vast amount of online resources available.

### Women of the ELCA

[www.womenoftheelca.org/devotions](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/devotions)

This is a website designed by Women of the ELCA.

Daily Grace is an on the go daily reflection in which you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. You will be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted.

You can provide comments on each Daily Grace and receive comments and feedback from other women of faith.

**Podcasts** are available through iTunes

Once a month **Devotions** that includes readings, reflection, and prayer.

(To get to the Devotions go to Our Work, Stewardship, Devotionals)



### Evangelical Lutheran Synod

[www.evangelicalluthेरansynod.org/dailydevotions/](http://www.evangelicalluthेरansynod.org/dailydevotions/)

These daily devotions include bible readings, hymns, and prayer

### Luther Seminary

[www.luthersem.edu/godpause/](http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/)

The seminary offers a program called **God Pause**. It is a collection of daily reflections from Luther Seminary Alumni. The reflections include passages from the bible and stories that relate to the passages.

### Center for Action and Contemplation

<https://cac.org/>

These daily meditations are provided by Father Richard Rohr. He created The Center for Action and Contemplation. Along with daily email meditations his organization provides various educational opportunities.

## Expanding Your Daily Devotionals through Technology Continued...

Devotional readings can be accessed with the following web sites through your email using your computer, smart phone or tablet. Below is a small sample of the vast amount of online resources available.

### **Bible Gateway**

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Bible Gateway provides **APPs** for iPad, iPhone, Android Phones, and Kindle Fire. These apps provide a wealth of information by using various translations of the bible including, but not limited to NIV, King James, and The Message.

Bible Gateway provides a variety of devotionals that can be emailed to you. Some of the devotionals are designed to be used throughout the year and others are for a shorter time frame. To access the devotionals go to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), select the Study tab, then choose Devotionals.

There are a wide variety of topics for your **devotionals** include NIV 365 Day Devotional, classical devotionals such as A 40 Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, devotionals by C.S. Lewis and many more authors representing faith journeys. There are, also, devotionals designed for women, moms, encouragement for today, devotionals for men, for families, for students, for leaders, inspirational devotionals, devotionals that explore faith, explore the bible, holiday & seasonal devotionals and audio devotionals.

Another daily devotional option is the **Reading Plans** through Bible Gateway. These plans are designed to help you with your bible readings throughout the year. You can create an account or log in and subscribe to various reading plans of your choice. Then you can track your progress, receive daily reading reminder emails, and print monthly lists of readings for offline use. The plan is designed so you can go at your own pace. You can start, pause, or stop, a reading plan whenever you want. To access Reading Plans go to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), select the Study tab, then choose Reading Plans.



BibleGateway

\*App available on iTunes,  
Google Play and Amazon

## Bible Annotation

### Helpful Hints on Reading Scripture

Many people find it helpful to annotate or mark-up their Bible as they read it. Below are several suggestions that you may want to try.

- ◆ Underline passages you find especially interesting or important
- ◆ In the margin with a vertical line mark entries concerning warnings, admonitions, or items of special interest. Different colors can be used for different topics.
- ◆ Use a hi-liter to mark certain subjects for example: blue for passages dealing with faith and belief and yellow for those that address works and behavior.
- ◆ Place a question mark in the margin for passages whose meaning is not clear, you wonder why, or you need to explore, study or consider more fully.
- ◆ Put an “A” in the margins for items you believe are absolutes concerning actions and how we are to live.
- ◆ In the margins, mark passages that deal with judgment with a “J” and those that deal with rewards with an “R”.

