

JANUARY 31, 2016  
EPIPHANY 4

taking+  
faith  
home

*Love is patient and kind.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected
Monday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Love is patient and kind
Tuesday	Matthew 7:24-29	Jesus' teaching has authority
Wednesday	Matthew 13:53-58	Jesus rejected at Nazareth
Thursday	Luke 6:20-26	Rejected disciples are blessed
Friday	1 Peter 2:1-10	Rejected by people but chosen by God
Saturday	Psalms 56	In God I trust
Sunday	Luke 9:28-43	Jesus is transfigured

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. **1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (CEV)**

### **SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, give us courage when we are rejected because we trust in you. Help us to be your loving servants. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

O God, give us hearts that are grateful for all your kindness. As you love us, lead us to love others. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with unfailing love. May that love flow through you to others. Amen.



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Jeremiah felt unprepared to respond to God's call (Jeremiah 1:6). When have you felt unprepared to be God's servant?
- Jesus was rejected by his own townspeople. How does God support you when you feel the judgment of others?
- In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Paul gave 16 characteristics of true love. What are they? Which are the hardest to live out?

## DEVOTIONS

Use 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a to reflect on God's love in the world. Who has shown some of these characteristics of love? For example, complete these statements: "**(Name) showed me God's love by being kind when . . .**" "**(Name) showed me God's love by forgiving me when . . .**"

## SERVICE

Equipping youth is a critical ministry of the church (see Jeremiah 1:4-10). Find some way of supporting children and youth in your community. For example, offer an encouraging word to a child or youth. Be available to teach or train youth in your community or congregation. Contribute financial support to programs that offer training to children and youth.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

February 2nd is the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord (see Luke 2:22-38), also known as **Candlemas**, involving candlelight processions and prayers.

Prepare a home candlelight procession. Have two people play Mary and Joseph, carrying a doll to represent the baby Jesus. Process in candlelight to the waiting Simeon. Simeon takes the "child" and reads aloud from Luke 2:29-32. Conclude by using the following prayer:

**Leader: We thank you, God, for sending us light to help us see in so many different ways. We thank you for the light of the flame that turns darkness into light. We thank you for the light of the sun, which divides night from day. We thank you for the words of the Bible that light our path. Above all we thank you for Jesus, who is the light of the world. Please help us shine as lights for you, so that others too can see your love and grace. Amen.**

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

