

APRIL 24, 2016  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

# taking+ faith home

*Love one another.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                      |                              |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 13:31-35        | Love one another             |
| Monday    | Mark 12:28-34        | The greatest commandment     |
| Tuesday   | John 15:9-17         | Remaining in Christ's love   |
| Wednesday | 1 John 4:7-21        | God's love and ours          |
| Thursday  | Matthew 5:43-48      | Love your enemies            |
| Friday    | 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 | The gift of love             |
| Saturday  | Leviticus 19:11-18   | Love your neighbor           |
| Sunday    | John 14:23-29        | The sending of the Counselor |

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples. **John 13:34-35 (CEV)**

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

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

Lord, thank you for your love. Help us to love others. Amen. (John 13:34-35)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies; For the love which from our birth over and around us lies; God of all, to you we raise, a prayer of grateful praise. Amen. (From the hymn, "For the Beauty of the Earth")

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

May the love of God strengthen you to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things. Amen. (1 Corinthians 13:7)



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is the most wonderful place you have ever visited? Why?
- God gave the apostle John a vision of a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1-4). What do you imagine they will be like?
- Jesus tells us to love one another. When is it easy/difficult to love others?

## DEVOTIONS



Read the wonderful description of love found in 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Work together on a definition of love that applies to your household. For example:

- Love is being patient when someone else is late.
- Love is being kind when someone else is hurt or feeling sad.

Pray together for God's help to show genuine love to one another.

## SERVICE



Jesus tells us that we should show ourselves to be his disciples by the way we love others. Think of someone who is difficult for you to like. Pray for understanding and acceptance of this person.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In his book, *The Five Love Languages of Children*, Gary Chapman explains that children are designed by God to give and receive love in different ways. Chapman suggests that there are five particular love languages that parents need to be aware of: words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, acts of service, and physical touch.

Talk together about what makes us feel loved, such as a hug, an act of service, a kind word or note, or a gift. Write up a list of these and post them in a prominent place. Focus this week on performing acts of love towards one another.



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)