

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 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	1 Kings 17:17-24	Elijah raised the widow's son
Tuesday	2 Kings 4:18-37	Elisha raises a dead child
Wednesday	Acts 20:7-12	Paul raises a young man
Thursday	Matthew 9:18-19,23-25	Jesus raises a dead girl
Friday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Made alive with Christ
Saturday	Psalms 6	Deliver me, O Lord
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

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Scripture Verse for this Week:

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will have life even if they die. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."
John 11:25-26 (NCV)

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

Prayer for the Week:

"Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God. Thank you for the gift of eternal life. Amen." (John 11:25-27)

For Throughout the Day:

"Lord God, control me by your Spirit this day so that I am led by Christ, not by sin. Amen." (Romans 8:9-10)

Mealtime Refrain:

"Jesus is the resurrection and the life: Those who live and believe in him will never die." (John 11:25-26)

A Blessing to Share:

"May the Spirit of Christ live in you, giving you power over sin and victory over death. Amen." (Romans 8:9-11)

Mealtime Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. Thank you for the gift of life in this world, and for the promise of life forever in the world to come. Amen."

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Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sad.
- Mary and Martha were very sad because their brother Lazarus had died. What did Jesus say to comfort them? (read John 11:23-25).
- How do Jesus' words make you feel? Why?

Devotional Practices:

When Jesus was confronted with Mary and Martha's grief, he also wept (John 11:35). In your family devotion times this week, make a point of praying for people who are experiencing times of sadness e.g. those who are sick or who have recently had a friend or loved one die. Decorate cards to send to these people.

Rituals and Traditions:

Set aside time to visit a cemetery as a family. Look at the bible verses or religious words featured on tombstones. Discuss how Jesus' promise of resurrection gives us hope and comfort.

Service:

Make up a bouquet of flowers for someone who has recently lost a loved one. Deliver it yourself or ask your pastor to deliver it for you.

Parent Toolbox: Talking to Children About Death

Many parents feel apprehensive about discussing death with their children. But death is an inescapable fact of life. We must deal with it and so must our children; if we are to help them, we must let them know it's OK to talk about it.

- Use clear and concise words when talking about death. Small children in particular struggle to understand abstract language. Checking to see if a child has understood what has been said is critical.
- Consider the maturity of your child. Telling a child too much may cause distress, but not telling them enough may also cause issues.
- Let your child know that expressing emotions and asking questions is natural and OK.
- Do not avoid your child's questions. Avoidance may only heighten their anxiety. Each question deserves a simple and relevant answer.
- Don't be concerned if you are not able to answer every question. It is better to say "I don't know" than to give a misleading response.
- Remember that children often realize much more than we give them credit for, and that their ability to cope often exceeds our expectations.

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