

**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 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	John 3:31-36	The Son and the Father
Tuesday	John 8:21-30	Jesus speaks of going to the Father
Wednesday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Keep the unity of the Spirit
Thursday	1 Peter 3:8-12	Live in harmony
Friday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Paul prays for the Ephesians
Saturday	Psalms 17:1-9	O God, hear my prayer
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit comes

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**Scripture Verse for this Week:**

Jesus said: "And this is eternal life: that people know you, the only true God, and that they know Jesus Christ, the One you sent." John 17:3 (NCV)

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

**Prayers for this Week:**

"Lord God, I give my anxieties to you. Help me to rest in your care. Amen." (1 Peter 5:7)

**For Throughout the Day:**

"Holy Father, please protect me today by the power of your name. Amen." (John 17:11)

**Mealtime Refrain:**

"God opposes the proud: But gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5:5)

**A Blessing to Share:**

*May the Lord keep you from all anxiety. May he lift you up with his grace, and assure you of his care. Amen. (1 Peter 5:5-7)*

**Easter Mealtime Prayer:**

*Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for the gifts of this table and the feast of Easter Joy. Fill us with your love and life. Amen.*

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SCRIPTURE

**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What makes you anxious or worried? What calms you down?
- The apostle Peter encourages us not to be too proud to give our worries to God, because he cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). Think of a time when you gave your worries to God.
- What worries or concerns can you give over to God now?

**Devotional Practices:**

Before Jesus was arrested, he prayed especially for his disciples, his closest friends during his time on earth (John 17:6-11). He prayed that his Heavenly Father would protect them, and that they would be united. In your family devotional times this week, give special focus to praying for your friends. Contact them to ask about their prayer needs, and include these in your prayer times.

**Service:**

Do you know someone who is going through a difficult period? Make up a card to send them, including the words of 1 Peter 5:7 (*"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you."*) Sign the card as a family.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

Last Thursday (May 1st) was Ascension Day. This day marks the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection at Easter, and his bodily ascension into heaven. It is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday.

The book of Acts (1:12) suggests that Jesus' ascension took place from Mt. Olivet, located northeast of the town of Bethany. Plan a trip (by car or foot) to a "high place" in your area. While there, discuss what it might have been like to see Jesus ascend into heaven, and your pictures of his return at the end of time.

Take time to notice the clouds and see what shapes you can find (there is an old tradition that the clouds on Ascension Day take the form of lambs, in honor of the Lamb of God). If possible, release one or more helium-filled balloons from your "high place". Shout these words aloud: *"Jesus has ascended, but he will return! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"*

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