

**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	Luke 13:31-35	A hen gathering her brood
Monday	Zechariah 8:1-8,14-23	The Lord is jealous for Zion
Tuesday	Hosea 11:1-11	God's love for Israel
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-14	The Lord will rebuild Israel
Thursday	Romans 11:25-32	All Israel will be saved
Friday	Revelation 21:1-14,22-27	The new Jerusalem
Saturday	Psalm 105:1-11,37-45	God remembers his covenant
Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree

**Scripture Verse for the Week:**

Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord.  
- Psalm 27:14 (NIRV)

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

**Prayer for this Week:**

Lord, I am your child. Please gather me to yourself and keep me safe. Amen. (Luke 13:34)

**For Throughout the Day:**

Lord, please help me to look beyond earthly things today. Focus me on the bigger and greater things you have in mind. Amen. (Philippians 3:18-21)

**A Blessing to Share:**

*May God hold you in his loving arms. May he hear your prayers for help and answer you with kindness. Amen.*

**Mealtime Refrain:**

The Lord is our light and our salvation: **Whom shall we fear?** (Psalm 27:1)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

*All things below, all things above, are gifts of your amazing love. Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

FOUR KEYS FOR THE HOME

**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is your country of citizenship? What does it mean to be a citizen?
- The apostle Paul says that Christians are 'citizens of heaven'. What does this mean?
- How do we show others that we are citizens of heaven?

**Devotional Practices:**

To distinguish Lent from "ordinary" time, call the household to meals in a new way. Have household members take turns in ringing a small bell as a call to gather for meals. Light a candle and have a few moments of silence before you say grace and begin to eat.

**Service:**

Commit as a household this week to each do one "daily deed" in service to one another. Look around and think about small deeds that could be done to show love and care to one another. Is there laundry to sort or are there dishes to be washed? Is there a floor that needs sweeping or a room that needs dusting? Put up a list of the "daily deed" each person commits to carry out for each day.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

During Lent most Christian churches refrain from singing or responding with "Alleluia" (a Hebrew word meaning 'praise to God'). This is a way to highlight the serious and reflective nature of the Lenten season.

Symbolise the silencing of "Alleluia" at home by making a banner with the word on it, rolling it up and putting it away in a cupboard until Easter Sunday. On Easter morning bring out the banner and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with your spoken or sung "Alleluia"s.

**Parent Toolbox**

Your home observance of Lent can be enhanced by the use of symbols. Consider using each of these four symbols in the coming weeks.

**A Crucifix** Do you have a crucifix in your home? If not, Lent might be a wonderful time to buy one and place it in a central place. Even a child's drawing of Jesus' death for us can be a powerful, stirring reminder of God's love. **Bowl of Water** A simple bowl of water, in a central place, can be an ongoing reminder of baptism in our lives. Use the bowl to mark one another with the sign of the cross during Lent. **Bowl of Sand** A bowl of sand can remind us of Jesus' forty days of temptation in the desert, and our own call to resist temptation in following Christ. **A Bible** Lent is a time to renew our focus on God's Word. The prominent placement of a Bible in our home can represent for us our desire for God's Word in our lives. Use the Bible to read one or more verses for your household each day.