

MARCH 6, 2016  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN LENT

# taking+ faith home

*God forgives our sins, and we forgive one another.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father
Monday	Psalms 32	The blessing of forgiveness
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	The ministry of reconciliation
Wednesday	Genesis 45:25—46:30	Jacob sees his son Joseph again
Thursday	Luke 15:1-7	The parable of the lost sheep
Friday	Romans 5:6-11	Reconciled to God
Saturday	Psalms 73	It is good to be near the Lord
Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but he is now alive. He was lost and has now been found. **Luke 15:32 (CEV)**

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

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

O God, help us to give your message of peace to others so that they may be brought back to you. Amen. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God in Heaven, you give us so much that we don't deserve. Please give us one more thing: thankful hearts! Amen.

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

May the God of grace and mercy continue to clothe you with the power of forgiveness and new life. Amen.



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a time when you forgave someone. How did you feel?
- Jesus told a parable about a prodigal son. How do you think the son felt when his father welcomed him back?
- In what ways is God like the forgiving father?

## DEVOTIONS



As part of your home devotions this week, read the parable of the prodigal son (aka "Forgiving Father") found in Luke 15:11-32. If you have younger children, you may wish to act out the story. Discuss the feelings and responses of each of the main characters (younger son, father, older son) in the parable. What is Jesus trying to say to us through these characters?

## SERVICE



How does your congregation welcome newcomers or visitors? Talk to your pastor or a church staff member about ways you can be involved in helping newcomers and visitors feel more at home. Think about how you, as a household, can show God's welcome to people who are new to your church.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



When the younger son returned home, his father held a feast to welcome him back. Do you have a tradition of offering hospitality to others in your home? Extend a dinner invitation to a newcomer in your congregation or neighborhood. Give roles to each person in your household in preparing for or cleaning up after the meal, to make your visitor/s feel welcome.



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)