PANDEMIC HOPE

A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL FOR LIFE DURING COVID-19

It's March 16, 2020.

Most of us have been paying attention to the news as information about COVID-19 changes hour-to-hour.

This virus is aggressive.

Our government leaders' strong encouragement to social isolation to feels extreme.

You know what?
As people of faith, those words also describe our hope.

Hope that this virus will be halted.
Hope that our sense of community with one another will be restored.
Hope that God has not left us to fend off this virus alone.

However, we have become focused inward by stockpiling supplies, making lists of all of the tv shows we want to watch and books we want to read, making schedules for our kids so they don't fall behind in their schoolwork, and focusing on how this virus is affecting us, as individuals.

But this virus is affecting us, as a global community.

In the waters of baptism, we are claimed as children of God, as part of God's family, which means we don't live in this world separate from one another.

Let's adjust our new extended spring break schedules and join together in some time of deepening our faith and listening to how God is calling us to love and serve our neighbor.

There are devotional readings & activities prepared for the next 8 weeks for you to do with those you are isolated alongside. If you live alone, call a friend or journal.

We will be using the Faith5 model. (instructions on the next page.)

The readings, activities, and webpages for the activities are grouped by week on the subsequent pages.

Let's remember we are not a people of fear, but of hope.

SHARE
your highs and lows

What was the best thing that happened to you today? What was the worst thing that happened to you today? You can share more than one good thing or bad thing, but this is about connecting with one another and talking about your day.

READ
a Bible verse or story

Each day, there will be a few verses or a short Bible story to read for the day. What did you hear in the story? What was your favorite part? How does this story show God's love?

TALK
about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

Listen for how God cares for those in the story and how those in the story respond to God and even thank God! How can you respond to God? What are some things you want to say, 'thank you!' to God for entrusting to you?

PRAY
for one another's highs and lows

Pray with one another and for one another. Pray that each of you learn to listen to God when God is guiding you.

BLESS
one another

Trace the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads and say, "(Name), you are known and loved by God." Or, "(Name), you are a child of God." Or, you can make up something new each night! What are different ways you can bless one another and remind yourselves that you are protected by God?

For more information, visit http://faith5.org.

WEEK 1

MONDAY

READING
Psalm 46

FAITH PRACTICE
Make Listening Jars
https://www.firefliesandmudpies.com/how-to-make-glitter-jars/

TUESDAY

READING
Psalm 100

FAITH PRACTICE
Learn a new song from the Hymnal
Handwashing Hits (included) to sing while you wash your hands

WEDNESDAY

READING
Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18

FAITH PRACTICE
Tune in to the Cincinnati Zoo facebook page for the live Safari at 3PM & pray for your favorite animals
https://www.facebook.com/cincinnatizoo/

THURSDAY

READING
Psalm 23

FAITH PRACTICE
Try Praying in Color!
https://prayingincolor.com/praying-in-color-praying-in-black-and-white

FRIDAY

READING
Matthew 6:5-15

FAITH PRACTICE
Play Prayer Bingo
[An example game board is included at the end of this booklet.]

SATURDAY

READING
John 1:1-9

FAITH PRACTICE
Make “stained glass” & notice how different it looks when light shines through it
https://www.adventure-in-a-box.com/stained-glass-heart-suncatcher/

SUNDAY

READING
John 9:1-41

FAITH PRACTICE
Make Play-Doh
https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/playdough-recipe

WEEK 2

MONDAY

READING
Psalm 118

FAITH PRACTICE
Play-Doh Prayers
http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2012/01/play-dough-prayers.html

TUESDAY

READING
Psalm 27

FAITH PRACTICE
Learn a new song from the Hymnal
Handwashing Hits (included) to sing while you wash your hands

WEDNESDAY

READING
Exodus 3:1-12

FAITH PRACTICE
Make s'mores!
https://christinevhides.com/2016/04/22/smore-prayer-recipe/

THURSDAY

READING
Exodus 3:13-22

FAITH PRACTICE
Make a list of all the names for God you can think of.
Which one is your favorite & why?

FRIDAY

READING
Exodus 4:1-17

FAITH PRACTICE
Make Bible Cookies!
http://pumpkinseedcrafts.blogspot.com/2012/05/scripture-cookies.html

SATURDAY

READING
Exodus 4:18-31

FAITH PRACTICE
If the weather cooperates, go for a walk together. Who can find the biggest (and still carry-able) stick?

SUNDAY

READING
John 11:1-45

FAITH PRACTICE
Create cards to send to homebound members.
Contact your church office to get addresses!

WEEK 3

MONDAY

READING
Psalm 121

FAITH PRACTICE
Pray for people who are helping our communities this week. Some ideas to get started: Grocery store staff, hospital staff, first responders, IT staff, custodians & waste disposal staff, gas station attendants. Who else?

TUESDAY

READING
Psalm 40

FAITH PRACTICE
Learn a new song from the Hymnal Handwashing Hits (included) to sing while you wash your hands

WEDNESDAY

READING
Exodus 16:4-5, 9-18

FAITH PRACTICE
Plan a happy surprise for a friend or family member.

THURSDAY

READING
Philippians 1:1-11

FAITH PRACTICE
Write a letter to someone you miss and tell them how much God loves them!

FRIDAY

READING
Psalm 44

FAITH PRACTICE
Pray for the countries where there are active cases of COVID-19.
Look them up on a map or globe!

SATURDAY

READING
1 Kings 17:7-16

FAITH PRACTICE
Draw a picture of Elijah with the Widow of Zarephath and make a gratitude list on the back of the page.

SUNDAY

READING
Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

FAITH PRACTICE
Make palm branches!

WEEK 4

MONDAY

READING
Psalm 130

FAITH PRACTICE
Prepare a paper with the word FORGIVEN using invisible ink. Once it's dry, take turns writing our sins in pencil on the paper. Reveal the word FORGIVEN using a candle
Link to invisible ink recipe: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be-_OgewR1M.

TUESDAY

READING
Luke 1:46-56

FAITH PRACTICE
Learn a new song from the Hymnal Handwashing Hits (included) to sing while you wash your hands

WEDNESDAY

READING
Hebrews 12:1-3

FAITH PRACTICE
Draw a cloud on a piece of paper. Write the names of people who have helped you grow in your faith. Post this somewhere in your house where you will see it. Add to it when you think of someone else!

THURSDAY

READING
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

FAITH PRACTICE
Take turns washing each other's feet

FRIDAY

READING
Psalm 22

FAITH PRACTICE
Explore stations of the cross.
https://prayingincolor.com/stations-of-the-cross

SATURDAY

READING
Mark 16:1

FAITH PRACTICE
Smell different spices in your spice cabinet (like cinnamon) and discuss what smells make you think of God. (A warm chocolate chip cookie? Fresh baked bread?)

SUNDAY

READING
Matthew 28:1-10

FAITH PRACTICE
Make Resurrection Rolls
https://www.coffeewithus3.com/resurrection-rolls/

WEEK 5

MONDAY

READING
Psalm 67

FAITH PRACTICE
Make a list of your family and friends, neighbors and teachers, etc. and ask God to bless each one by name.

TUESDAY

READING
Exodus 15:1b-18

FAITH PRACTICE
Learn a new song from the Hymnal Handwashing Hits (included) to sing while you wash your hands

WEDNESDAY

READING
Genesis 9:13-16

FAITH PRACTICE
Paint a rainbow and hang it in a window to remind you of God's promise.

THURSDAY

READING
Isaiah 55:1-11

FAITH PRACTICE
Call a homebound/assisted living member and see how they're doing. Pray for them at the end of the call.

FRIDAY

READING
Psalm 16

FAITH PRACTICE
Write out some of the good things God has given you and your family.

SATURDAY

READING
Exodus 10:1-10

FAITH PRACTICE
Name ways that God has protected you and cared for you when you needed help.

SUNDAY

READING
John 20:19-31

FAITH PRACTICE
Line a bunch of dominos them up in a long row, & make predictions of what might happen if one were to fall over. Start the chain reaction and watch the dominoes topple in a row. How is this a good example of how we share God's love?

WEEK 6

MONDAY

READING
Psalm 80

FAITH PRACTICE
Weather permitting, go for a walk today & take note of the things that are coming back to life after winter.

TUESDAY

READING
Psalm 95

FAITH PRACTICE
Learn a new song from the Hymnal Handwashing Hits (included) to sing while you wash your hands

WEDNESDAY

READING
Jonah 2:1-10

FAITH PRACTICE
Make a fort in your home and together pray for those who are far away.

THURSDAY

READING
Psalm 98

FAITH PRACTICE
Make a band with your family using whatever you can find (a pot for a drum, your hands for cymbals) and make a joyful noise to God!

FRIDAY

READING
Psalm 2:14a, 22-32

FAITH PRACTICE
Write down some places you have seen God while you've been at home & share them with your family. Did any of these surprise you?

SATURDAY

READING
Acts 2:14a, 36-41

FAITH PRACTICE
Have you ever seen a baptism? That person is your sister or brother in Christ! Pray for your friends from church or your friends who go to other places of worship.

SUNDAY

READING
Luke 24:13-35

FAITH PRACTICE
Tell the story with colored paper http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/search/label/Emmaus

WEEK 7

MONDAY

READING
Psalm 85

FAITH PRACTICE
Go on a nature walk and hunt for signs of Spring together.
Can't go out? Watch this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nXmlDejoHk

TUESDAY

READING
Psalm 103

FAITH PRACTICE
Learn a new song from the Hymnal Handwashing Hits (included) to sing while you wash your hands

WEDNESDAY

READING
ACts 16:12-15, 40

FAITH PRACTICE
Talk about women who have taught you about Jesus' love. Give thanks for Lydia and other women of faith!

THURSDAY

READING
Acts 2:1-13

FAITH PRACTICE
Time for a science experiment to show us how the Spirit sends us out to spread the good news of Jesus!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqQSlEViNpk

FRIDAY

READING
Galatians 5:22-26

FAITH PRACTICE
Listen to the Fruits of the Spirit Song and share how you practice the Fruits of the Spirit.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rezg4jYFoj0

SATURDAY

READING
Matthew 7:24-27

FAITH PRACTICE
Use Legos, Duplos, or other building blocks to illustrate the story, then say a prayer
http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2015/03/lego-or-duplo-prayers.html

SUNDAY

READING
John 10:1-10

FAITH PRACTICE
Make sheep using cotton balls or pancakes and talk about Jesus, our shepherd. How does Jesus lead us? How do we hear Jesus' voice?

WEEK 8

MONDAY

READING
Psalm 126

FAITH PRACTICE
Take turns telling your favorite joke and thank God for filling our mouths with laughter.
Need some inspiration?
https://parade.com/968634/parade/jokes-for-kids/

TUESDAY

READING
Luke 2:29-32

FAITH PRACTICE
Learn a new song from the Hymnal Handwashing Hits (included) to sing while you wash your hands

WEDNESDAY

READING
Matthew 20:24-28

FAITH PRACTICE
Think of 1 think you can do to serve everyone else in your household today.

THURSDAY

READING
Acts 2:42-47

FAITH PRACTICE
Plan an activity that your congregation can do together in celebration for the next time you gather for worship.

FRIDAY

READING
Revelation 21:1-6

FAITH PRACTICE
Write out the alphabet & add something to pray for that begins with every letter.

SATURDAY

READING
Psalm 136

FAITH PRACTICE
Listen to Chris Tomlin song “Forever” and be reminded of how God's love endures forever”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUH_NzfRmbs

SUNDAY

READING
John 14:1-14

FAITH PRACTICE
Download a reflective coloring sheet, or try making your own.
http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2017/05/reflective-colouring-sheet-john-146-7-i.html

Hymnal Handwashing Hits!

Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

This Little Light of Mine
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine! *(3x)*
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

How Great Thou Art
Then sings my soul,
My savior, God, to Thee!
How great thou art; how great thou art!
(Repeat)

Jesus Loves Me
Jesus loves me this I know,
For the bible tells me so!
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak but he is strong!
Yes, Jesus loves me! *(3x)*
The bible tells me so!

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Great is thy faithfulness! *(Repeat)*
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

In the Garden
And he walks with me & he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known!.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

It is Well With My Soul
When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot,
Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Here I Am, Lord
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Amazing Grace
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see!

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of Love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

Abide with Me
Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens;
Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Blessed Assurance
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
(Repeat)

Holy, Holy, Holy
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

For the Beauty of the Earth
For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

Just As I Am
Just as I am , without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

I Know that My Redeemer Lives!
I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak but you are mighty,
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore!
Feed me now and evermore!

	H	O	P	E	F	U	L
P	Ask God to bless someone from school	Thank God for your friends	Ask God to help those who are sick	Ask God to watch over China	Thank God for your favorite animals	Say, "Sorry," for when you argued	Ask God to watch over Spain
R	Ask God to bless a teacher	Thank God for your family	Ask God to help those who are homeless	Ask God to watch over South Korea	Thank God for your favorite food	Say, "Sorry," for when you were rude	Ask God to watch over France
A	Ask God to bless a friend	Thank God for your school	Ask God to help those who don't have enough food	Ask God to watch over Italy	Thank God for your home	Say, "Sorry," for when you told a lie	Ask God to watch over the United Kingdom
Y	Ask God to bless someone in your family	Thank God for holidays & breaks	Ask God to help those who don't have clean water	Ask God to watch over Iran	Thank God for your clothes	Say, "Sorry," for when you upset someone	Ask God to watch over Germany
E	Ask God to bless someone famous	Thank God for food	Ask God to help those who are jobless	Ask God to watch over the United States	Thank God for your possessions	Say, "Sorry," for when you made fun of someone	Ask God to watch over Switzerland
R	Ask God to bless someone who helps you	Thank God for clothes	Ask God to help those who are upset	Ask God to watch over the Japan	Thank God for your favorite place	Say, "Sorry," for when you wasted something	Ask God to watch over everywhere COVID-19 has spread

Welcome to Prayer Bingo!

You get to determine the rules for how you will bingo!
Examples: single line in any direction, four corners, full card, only straight lines