



September 15, 2024, 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 8:27-38

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Holy God, too often we set our minds on earthly things, and try to make Jesus fit into our own paradigms. Open our minds and hearts to the truth that Jesus cannot be contained by any human rules or norms, but is often to be found doing things we cannot understand. Give us the humility to be teachable, that we might recognize where he is calling us to a new way of thinking or being. In his holy name we pray. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mark 8:35)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

After Peter declared that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus foretold his death and resurrection to his disciples, to which Peter responded with resistance. Jesus then explained to them and the crowd what it meant to be true followers of Christ.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Who is Jesus? (That's a big question. You might only be able to wrap your mind around it a little.)
- Is following Jesus easy or hard for you? Why?
- For the littles: Have you heard the word, Messiah? What do you think it means?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May Jesus reveal himself to you your whole life long. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Reflect on the times in your life when following Jesus or maintaining faith was hard. Consider whether it was worth the struggle. If so, make a plan for moving through the next time following Jesus gets hard. (Who will you reach out to? What spiritual practices can you sustain? What verses cling to your soul?)



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 73:21-28; Proverbs 22:1-21; Romans 3:9-20

Tuesday, Psalm 73:21-28; Proverbs 25:1-28; Colossians 3:1-11

Wednesday, Psalm 73:21-28; Proverbs 29:1-27; John 7:25-36

Thursday, Psalm 1; Proverbs 30:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Friday, Psalm 1; Proverbs 30:18-33; Romans 11:25-32

Saturday, Psalm 1; Ecclesiastes 1:1-18; Matthew 23:29-39