



September 1, 2024, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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



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

Gracious God, we are often quick to judge the actions of others because they do not conform to our comfortable worldview. Help us to step outside of our self-created ideas of what is acceptable so that we might recognize your truth and justice in action. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." (Mark 7:14-15)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The Pharisees try to trick Jesus into contradicting what has been said by other prophets. But instead of falling for it, Jesus gives them something completely different to consider.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Words can hurt. Think of a story that was reported unfairly. Did it cause division? What would it take for people to unlearn the lie and relearn the truth?
- How do you feel when you indulge in gossip? How does it affect your relationships?
- For the littles: What is the nicest thing you can say about people who you love? God likes when we speak kindly!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May the God of all bless the words that come out of your mouth and the actions that come from your bodies. Amen.



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

Practice sharing good with your actions. Volunteer your time at a nursing home reading to people, playing games, or singing music with them.



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

Monday, Psalm 144:9-15; Song of Solomon 3:6-11; 1 Timothy 4:6-16
Tuesday, Psalm 144:9-15; Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3; 1 Peter 2:19-25
Wednesday, Psalm 144:9-15; Song of Solomon 8:5-7; Mark 7:9-23
Thursday, Psalm 125; Proverbs 1:1-19; Romans 2:1-11
Friday, Psalm 125; Proverbs 4:10-27; Romans 2:12-16
Saturday, Psalm 125; Proverbs 8:1-31; Matthew 15:21-31