

verse for the week

We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Through his blood our sins have been forgiven.

EPHESIANS 1:7

Caring Conversations

Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

Share about a time when you were especially chosen for something. How did you respond?

2

The apostle Paul tells us that God had decided to make you his child even before the world was made (Ephesians 1:4). How does this make you feel? Why?



Devotions



Daily Bible Readings

S	Mark 6:14-29	The death of John the Baptist
M	Amos 7:7-15	Vision of the plumb line
T	Ephesians 1:3-14	Thanksgiving for blessings
W	Leviticus 26:1-13	Rewards for obedience
T	Romans 3:9-26	God's judgment and mercy
F	Proverbs 11:23-30	A generous person
S	Psalms 85:8-13	God speaks peace to the people
S	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals the people

Discuss the bible reading. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

Rituals and Traditions



PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for choosing to save us. Continue to give us the Holy Spirit, so that the way we live praises you. Amen.

BLESSING

Child of God, may the Lord, who has chosen you, bless you generously through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Creative Response

Place a small bowl of water on your home altar or mealtable. Each morning or evening this week, invite each household member to make the sign of the cross on someone else's forehead in remembrance of their baptism – the day they were sealed with the cross of Christ, given the Holy Spirit, and made part of God's "forever family". Join in saying the following prayer:

Dear God, thank you for loving us and choosing us to be part of your "forever family". Help us to shine with your love in all we say and do today. Amen.



mealtime prayer

Receive our thanks for night and day, for food and shelter, rest and play. Lord, be our guest and with us stay. Amen.

Service



The Gospel reading for Sunday tells how John the Baptist was put in prison and later killed. Pray this week for people who are unjustly imprisoned.

Visit the website of Amnesty International to learn more about situations of injustice across the world (www.amnesty.org). Find out how you can personally support the work of Amnesty International through letter writing or with a donation.