

OUR PART IN THE STORY:

Daily devotions on Sunday's Narrative Lectionary text

Faith As A Way of Life

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:2-4; 3:[3b-6] 17-19

SHARE your highs and lows for the day.

READ Sunday's entire text each day to learn the story deeply. This reading takes place again in the troubled time in the Israelites' history, after the Assyrians had destroyed city after city, and shortly before Jerusalem was seized, its leaders sent into exile, and the temple destroyed.

❖ This is a heavy reading, but not inappropriate for children. Children experience injustice. Children wonder why God lets oppression and violence happen. This text gives parents a good opportunity to have a discussion with their children about how faithful people can lament and question God, without abandoning their faith. The Israelites lamented, the prophets lamented, and we can lament, and pray for God to act.

TALK about what you just read, and relate it to your highs and lows. The questions and prompts below are intended to spark discussion and action. Use one each day or several at one sitting.

- ❖ How can the prophet be so courageous to call God out on what seems to him as grave injustice?
- ❖ When have you spoken up in the face of injustice? What was the result?
- ❖ The prophet finds the will to praise God, despite the destruction around him. How do you find the courage to keep faith and praise God in adversity?
- ❖ What do you think the "vision for the appointed time" is?

PRAY for your family and friends, for faith in troubling times, for your highs and lows, and for a vision of God's kingdom to come.

BLESS each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead and saying, "God is with you."

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Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.

MONDAY: The Challenge to Rebuild

Haggai 1:7-13

- ❖ How did God call the people to get their priorities in order?

TUESDAY: Encouraging the People

Haggai 2:3-9

- ❖ For what do you need to hear the words, "Work, for I am with you?"

WEDNESDAY: The People Change

Zechariah 1:2-6

- ❖ Why do you think these words finally changed the people's hearts?

THURSDAY: A Time of Peace to Come

Zechariah 8:1-6

- ❖ What does this time of peace look like to you?

FRIDAY: The Shepherd's Two Staffs

Zechariah 10:4-7

- ❖ How do you shepherd a flock intended for slaughter? What hope is there?

SATURDAY: The King Will Come

Zechariah 9: 9-10

- ❖ What kind of king is the prophet prophesying?