

OCTOBER 30, 2016
REFORMATION
SUNDAY

taking+
faith
home

We are saved by grace through faith. Through Jesus Christ, we are set free!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 8:31-36	God's Word sets people free
Monday	Isaiah 55:6-11	God's Word achieves his purposes
Tuesday	Romans 1:8-17	The gospel is the power of God
Wednesday	Romans 15:1-7	The Scriptures give encouragement
Thursday	Colossians 3:5-17	Let the word of Christ dwell in you
Friday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	New covenant
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our strength
Sunday	Luke 21:5-19	Suffering for Jesus' sake

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins. **Romans 3:23-24 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of faith, the power to know you and the truth that sets us free. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

O God, please bless the food before us, the people beside us, and the world around us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus set you free. May his words live in your mind and your heart, now and always. Amen. (John 8:36; Jeremiah 31:33)



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Reformation means change. Talk about a time when you experienced change in your life.
- Jesus says that the one who commits sin is a slave to sin. What enslaves you or keeps you from loving God and neighbor?
- Jeremiah 31:31-34 promises a new covenant for God's people and a time when God will remember people's sins no more. What is it like to have a God who not only forgives but also forgets?

DEVOTIONS



Reformation Day on October 31st recognizes the day in 1517 when Martin Luther posted 95 theses (or statements) of belief on the doors of a church in Wittenberg, Germany. They were written to challenge the teachings and practices of the church of Luther's day.

Luther wrote "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," a hymn that is deeply associated with the Reformation. Based on Psalm 46, it celebrates faith and confidence in God, no matter what happens around us. Pray Psalm 46 and the words of "A Mighty Fortress." List the things that are going on in your life and the world around you that challenge your faith. Then, after each of those challenges, recite the words of Psalm 46:1, "God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble."

SERVICE



The Reformation lifts up the power and grace of God's word. Bring the Taking Faith Home sheet with you on a visit to someone who is homebound. Use portions of Taking Faith Home with that person and together experience the freeing power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The Christian faith acknowledges the power of sin and the need for our lives to be set free through confession and forgiveness. Gather together with family or friends, light a candle and make a public confession of sins by reciting Psalm 51:1-10. Then, offer one another words of forgiveness by saying:

"[Name of person], in the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven."

You may substitute "A Blessing to Give" for the words of forgiveness.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org