THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

Life Continues: Words That Build the Kingdom — Luke 21:5–19

GATHERING - Light a candle and name one word of hope. Let its light remind you that God is present and still at work.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK - *Faithful God, when the world feels uncertain, steady our hearts. Guard our words from fear and harm. Give us courage to speak hope, offer healing, and encourage those who are weary. Help us keep doing what is good as we trust you to make all things new. Amen.*

CARING CONVERSATION - Take a few moments to check in with one another. Share your highs & lows.

- What is one thing that brought you joy this week?
- What uncertainty or change has been weighing on you?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK'S SCRIPTURE - Jesus speaks honestly about upheaval yet tells his followers not to be terrified. God will give them words and wisdom. Paul calls believers to steady faithfulness, while Isaiah invites us to trust that God is creating a future filled with joy, peace, and life.

- What helps you remain faithful when life feels uncertain?
- When have someone's words given you courage or hope?
- How can words harm a community? How can they help heal it?
- What ordinary act of love could help build God's kingdom this week?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - As you read this week, ask: How do faithful words and actions reveal God's new creation?

DAY	READING	THEME
Sun	Psalm 46:1–11	*God Is Our Refuge*
Mon	Luke 21:5–19	*Endure with Hope*
Tues	Isaiah 12	*Trust and Give Thanks*
Wed	2 Thessalonians 3:6–13	*Do Not Grow Weary*
Thur	Ephesians 4:25–32	*Words That Give Grace*
Fri	Proverbs 15:1–4	*A Healing Tongue*
Sat	Revelation 21:1–5	*God Makes All Things New*
Sun	Isaiah 65:17–25	*A New Creation*

DEVOTIONAL - Jesus does not pretend that life will always feel secure. He names conflict, loss, and uncertainty, then reminds his followers that fear does not get the final word. God remains present and gives them wisdom to endure.

"Life continues" is not a denial of pain. It is a declaration of faith. We keep praying, working, loving, and doing good because God is still at work, even when we cannot yet see what God is creating.

Our words are part of that faithful work. Words can spread fear or deepen division, but they can also encourage, heal, tell the truth with love, and offer hope. One thoughtful conversation can help another person remember that they are not alone.

Isaiah imagines a new creation where people flourish and peace takes root. Every encouraging word and act of love points toward that future. We build God's kingdom one conversation, one task, and one faithful choice at a time.

PRAY TOGETHER - Invite each person to name someone who needs encouragement or hope. Then pray together:

God of hope, hold us steady when the world feels uncertain. Give us words that heal rather than wound, encourage rather than discourage, and build community rather than division. Keep us from growing weary in doing good. Use our conversations and actions to reveal the new creation you are bringing among us. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER - *Creating God, thank you for this food and for the people gathered here. May our words bring grace, our actions offer hope, and our life together reflect your kingdom. Amen.*

SERVICE CHALLENGE - This is one way we help build God's kingdom. Encourage one person each day this week. Send a note, make a call, offer thanks, or speak hope into a difficult situation. Let your words be truthful, kind, and life-giving.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that God's hope continues to shine through your words and actions.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another's hands or foreheads and say: **"Go with hope. Speak words that give life. And keep building God's kingdom through faithful love."**