



# Growing FAITH at home

FIRST SUNDAY  
AFTER  
CHRISTMAS

YEAR A

Hope for  
the future



GrowMinistries

LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



where love comes to life

[www.growministries.org.au](http://www.growministries.org.au)



## CONVERSATIONS

*Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:*

1. What do you do when you feel sad? How does faith in God help us when we are sad?
2. A time of great sadness came to the town of Bethlehem soon after the visit of the Wise Men (Matthew 2:16-18). Why were they sad?



## BIBLE READINGS

*Read the following Bible readings throughout this week.  
Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.*

<b>S</b>	<b>Matthew 2:13-23</b>	The escape to Egypt
<b>M</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:15-20</b>	Hope for the future
<b>T</b>	<b>Ecclesiastes 3:1-13</b>	For everything a season
<b>W</b>	<b>Hosea 11:1-11</b>	Out of Egypt I called my son
<b>T</b>	<b>Hebrews 2:10-18</b>	Abraham's descendants
<b>F</b>	<b>Isaiah 63: 7-9</b>	Remembrance of Grace
<b>S</b>	<b>Psalm 148</b>	Praise the Lord

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

I will make known the Lord's faithful love  
and the Lord's praiseworthy acts, because  
of all the Lord has done for us.

ISAIAH 63:7





## CREATIVE RESPONSE

While Jesus was still very young, his family fled to Egypt to escape from King Herod.

There are many people in our world today who are forced to flee their homes, because their countries have become unsafe for them – we call them refugees.

Find out more about how our church supports refugees in our world today.

Visit <https://www.alws.org.au>.

Talk together about what it would be like to be a refugee, and pray for those in such situations.

Do you know a refugee in your community? Could you visit them and ask about their experience?



## ACTION RESPONSE

Who in your congregation or community is experiencing a time of sadness? Prepare a ‘thinking of you’ card to send to them. Choose a Bible verse from this week’s readings to insert into the cards. Children may wish to draw a picture to include with them. To remind you to pray for those who are sad, write their names onto tissues and position these in your household worship area.



## MEALTIME PRAYER

God, we thank you for this time to share a meal with those for whom we care. Please bless this food so that it gives us strength to serve you.

Amen.



## PRAYER

Lord God, you have done many good things for us. Help us to stay true to you. Amen.



## BLESSING

May God be loving and kind to you. May he lift you up and carry you all your life.