**At the Start of the Week**

**Caring conversation**

In preparation for school, begin with conversation:

* One of the highlights of the summer was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Now that summer is over, I can’t wait for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* My goal for this coming year is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Devotion**

Read Deuteronomy 7:11 (CEV)

*So be sure to obey his law and teachings I am giving you today.*

God made promises to our ancestors. He loves us and is with us always. He gave them and us a commandment to keep his words in our hearts and recite them to our children. In school, instead of commandments we have rules.

* What rules do you have?
* Why do we need to keep the rules?
* What is a good rule that you think everyone should live by?

**Service**

Our lives are filled with learning. We learn though many social contacts. We learn at school, in our homes, in church, on the job, through various media, and in our neighborhoods, teams, and communities.

* Make a commitment in the next month to be of service by helping someone else learn.
* Be a “book buddy” at school to help somebody learn to read better or understand a math problem, or teach someone how to run a computer program at work or develop a skill with a tool.

**Rituals and Traditions**

Prayer:

*Lord, you have blessed us to be a blessing to others and grow in wisdom. Help our lives to reflect your grace and will as we serve you. We ask this in your name. Amen*

Bless one another: *“May you obey God’s laws and write them on your heart.”*

**At the End of the Week**

**Caring Conversation**

After school has begun, gather once more for a special time together. Begin with conversation:

* My favorite part of the school day is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Something I like about my teacher is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Something I look forward to this year is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Devotion**

Read Luke 2:52 (CEV)

*Jesus became wise and he grew strong. God was pleased with him and so were the people.*

* Jesus became wise and strong. How do you become wise and strong?

**Service**

* Talk about children who may not have backpacks, lunch money, and school supplies. Go together as a family or group and buy supplies for families at a local shelter.
* Pray for children who do not have the benefit of an education that they find a means to grow in their knowledge and faith.

**Rituals and Traditions**

Pray together:

*Dear God of knowledge and wisdom, as we are given the opportunity at school to learn something new each day, we ask for your blessing. Help us to develop and grow the gifts you have given us. Remind us that where we go, you are always with us. Amen*

Bless one another by making the sign of the cross on each other’s forehead and saying, *“Remember that Jesus goes with you wherever you go.”*