

Clippings

*Newsletter of Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
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Mowgli, the orphan boy in Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, was raised by wolves.

My mom was a single mom for awhile, so... To some extent, I was raised by TV.

I would get up early and come into the living room and turn on the set. It would take a while to warm up, and for a picture to form: fuzzy at first, then, as the vacuum tubes all heated up and the voltages settled down, I'd sit down on the floor in front of the TV and wait for the programming day to start. All my friends would come along later at their appointed hours: Captain Kangaroo, the Mouseketeers, Lucille Ball, Soupy Sales, Red Skelton, Sky King, Bugs Bunny, Felix the Cat... but I'd make sure to get dressed before *Romper Room* started, because I was sure that Miss Rosemary could see me

sitting there in my bathrobe when she looked through her Magic Mirror!

But all that would start later. For now, at the beginning of my day, it was just me, the humming set, and my friend the Test Pattern Indian.

I didn't really get why, in the midst of all the technical-looking camera calibration stuff, somebody decided to draw an Indian chief. It was weird. But the dependability, the routine, of this image somehow comforted and encouraged. It set me up for my day.

At the end of the day, the "sign-off" routine always ended with the playing of the National Anthem, with a movie of Old Glory waving in the wind. Anybody who was up and still staring at "the idiot box" after that would see nothing but static.



Things that "bracket" a period of time—like the change of the seasons, or routines for morning and evening—help us to experience and manage the cyclical nature of our lives. God knew that when He commanded us to set aside time every week to remember Him and listen to His Word. But it's not only weeks that He can begin and end; have you tried it with a day?

Start the day with a few quiet minutes reading a little from the Bible. (I recommend no more than a chapter.) Then set your Bible down and say "Good Morning" back to God (He's already said it to you in your reading). Commit your day to Him. During the day, of course, you will have multiple opportunities to say a word here or there to God. He loves to hear from you!

Go and live out your day, but before you nod off at the end of it, take a few minutes to give Him thanks, and give Him your cares. Ask His forgiveness for your mess-ups, and believe that you have it for Jesus' sake. I recommend Luther's evening prayer, which you can find in Lutheran Service Book on page 327.

And afterward, as Luther said, "Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer."

~Pastor Fremer