

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of December 16th, 2018*

by Rev. Steve Andrews Jr.

Weekly Tip for Worshipping with Your Children: *Worshipping with children is not easy, but it is necessary! Even from the time of birth, children learn the most by observing what their parents do. We are here to help. This week's tip is for: **Parents with Young Children!***

Isn't my child too little to participate in worship? Even very little children can learn to use a soft voice, stand when the congregation stands out of respect for God, fold their hands for prayers, and kneel when the congregation kneels. If you are saying the Lord's Prayer at home they will soon learn it, recognize it at church and be able to say it in worship. The same is true for the Apostle's Creed. Children can also learn to watch the pastor, when he makes the sign of the cross, they can do the same. Parents can do this on the forehead of infants and quietly repeat the blessing. (It's also a great part of a bedtime routine)

Outreach Made Simply Practical! *Live your normal, everyday lives with Gospel intentionality!*

Go Tell It: This is a clever little phrase: "Go Tell it on the Mountain...your mountains are different but the message is the same!" For just under 2000 years Christians have been going to spread the Christmas message. You take part in this amazing history every time you join them and tell it! Who will go tell it to? Please, go tell it! As Christians this is our job, we spread the story! Sometimes the practical simple outreach example is simply – go tell it! Go tell it!

Weekly Worship Helps for the Home: *How do we go about doing devotions together as a family? How do we teach our children about their Lord and Savior? Here are some simple ways to do just that, to make Christ the center of your family and to be in His Word daily. This guide is designed to help your family read through the Scriptures together in three years and to cover the Small Catechism in just one year!*

You can certainly do this however you would like. In my home, we read a chapter of the Bible together after dinner each night, followed by reciting the three chief parts of the Catechism (Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, and the Lord's Prayer) and then we sing a hymn. There are any number of ways to talk about God in your home!

-Pray together! This week's **Prayer List:** <http://www.gracefaithlove.org/newsletter>

-Scripture Readings: Let's read Leviticus 22-27 and Lamentations 1. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Luke 1:46-47 – "46 And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,'"

-Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

LSB 357 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 17

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the 7th and 8th Commandments, What does this mean?, pg. 14. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Second Commandment, pg. 67-73.

-Devotions resources: grab a copy of *Portals of Prayer* at church or subscribe to daily email devotions from www.lhm.org, www.lutheranchurchcharities.org, or <https://media.higherthings.org/reflections/>.

Feel free to share with family and friends, neighbors and coworkers, anyone you'd like!

God Time at Home

Select questions and adapt for your family.

FOR STARTERS: Take some Christmas presents from under the tree and have a guessing game as to what they might be.

READ THE BIBLE: John 1:35-42

KEY VERSE: John 1:41b, "...*We have found the Messiah*' (which means 'Christ')."

TALK ABOUT IT: Kids may have highlighted in their Bibles the words, "Messiah" or "Christ." Look at the following passages from the book of John to see the different people who called Jesus the Messiah. Who called Jesus the Messiah in John 1:40-41? (*Andrew.*) In John 4:25 and 29, who said she knew that the Messiah was coming? (*The Samaritan woman at the well.*) In John 11:27, who told Jesus she believed he was the Christ? (*Martha.*) The Jews at this time had been waiting for centuries for the promised Messiah. Why do you think these people believed Jesus was the promised Messiah when others did not? (*They had faith when he told them. They saw some of the things he did. They had been told in the Old Testament and that message fit Jesus' birth and other events.*)

Jesus is in heaven waiting to return again, but we can have faith in him now. He wants to be a part of your life and help you. Is there something you are waiting for him to do in your life?

PRAYER: Thank God that he sent his Son Jesus as the gift of the Messiah. Thank him that we can have faith in him now and can look forward to seeing him face to face in heaven someday. Have family members each pray for what they want Jesus to do in their lives.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Discussion: Remember when you wanted something badly for Christmas and it was hard to wait for it? Human history waited a long time for God to fulfill his promises to send the Messiah, the Promised One. But, he came on Christmas day.

As a family, think about something your family could do to help someone who is waiting for hope. You might do something for a needy child or a family in crisis. Think of a gift or service your family could provide before Christmas day.