

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of January 6th, 2019*

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 Older Children!***

Should I let my child have a cell phone in church? The focus should be on worship. Like adults, cell phones are distracting. Focusing on the world of worship and on God's Word is tough to do while texting friends and playing games. Even adults struggle with the distracting desire to clear their email or recent texts.

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

Lots of Visitors: Did you know that almost every weekend we have a new visitor in church? PRAISE THE LORD! Feel free to ask the pastors to introduce you to a visitor, or introduce your visiting friend to the pastors! Please note that some of these visitors come from different cultures, have different customs, and may even speak a completely different language. Regardless of this Christian love is still the same! They need Christian love and fellowship just as we do. Through your words, actions, and prayers let us make St. Matthew a place for these families to come and to receive God's gifts through His Word and Sacraments!

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 Luke 4-10. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Romans 6:3-4 (Challenge! 6:1-11) – ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

-Hymn: *To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord* LSB 406/407 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 29

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Apostles' Creed: First Article, What does this mean?, pg. 16. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Fifth Commandment, pg. 85-92.

-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: Have all family members compare their shoes and tell where their shoes traveled today. Ask: "Did your shoes bring you to any place where you could follow Jesus by showing his love to someone else?" Discuss.

READ THE BIBLE: John 1:35-51

KEY VERSE: John 1:43b, "*Jesus... told him, 'Follow me!'*"

TALK ABOUT IT: When Jesus invited the disciples to come and see where he was staying, what did the disciples do? (*John 1:39. They spent the rest of the day with Jesus.*) What does this teach us? (*We need to spend time with Jesus to become more like him.*) Who did Andrew invite to follow Jesus? (*John 1:40-42. Simon Peter.*) Who did Philip invite to also follow Jesus? (*John 1:45-46. Nathanael.*) All these men became Jesus' disciples. How are Andrew and Philip examples for us? (*When we become followers of Jesus, we are to invite others to follow him, too.*)

PRAYER: Thank God for sending Jesus not only to die on the cross to free us from our sins, but as an example in showing love to others. Pray that all family members continue to follow where Jesus leads them.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Consider doing a family activity that everyone can walk to and be reminded that they are following Jesus. This could be something like having a picnic that includes a Bible reading and prayer. Or, it could be a special service project in your neighborhood. Use your imagination and let your shoes carry you to a place where you are "following Jesus."