

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of January 13th, 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: Fathers!*

Dad's little notes: Just a simple hand written note in the back pack of your child: "Hope you have a nice day at school. See you when I get home. Love, Dad." It can make more of an impact than you can ever imagine. The time invested is probably thirty seconds, but the thoughtfulness cannot be measured.

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

Tell Yourself First: The song "I love to tell the Story" is a classic. It is the story of Jesus and His glory of Jesus and His love. Have you told yourself that? Can you articulate to yourself, through your own life, how Jesus and His love forgave, saved, and changed you? Before you can ever tell someone else you first must tell yourself and delight in His love! Then you can bless your family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and others with how Christ's love changed your life and can change theirs as well, eternally!

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 11-17. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Isaiah 62:4 – You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.

-Hymn: *The Only Son from Heaven* LSB 402 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 128

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Apostles' Creed: Second Article, What does this mean?, pg. 17. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Sixth Commandment, pg. 93-104.

-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: Pour a few drops of blue and red food coloring on a spoon. *IF* you have time, let it dry. Then, serve your child lemon-lime soda or water and stir in the food coloring. Watch the color of the liquid change. Serve it to all as each family member shares about a favorite party they attended. Then point out that Jesus brings joy to everyday life and demonstrated that as he helped the celebration of a party he attended.

READ THE BIBLE: John 2:1-11

KEY VERSE: 1 Peter 1:8, *“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.”* (NIV)

TALK ABOUT IT: At what event or feast did Jesus perform his first public miracle? (*John 2:1. A wedding.*) Why do you think Jesus’ mother told him the wine was gone? (*She knew he was God’s Son and could take care of the situation.*) Even though Jesus said, “My time has not yet come.” (John 2:4), why do you think Mary told the servers to do whatever Jesus told them to do? (*Maybe she had faith that Jesus would still take care of the situation even though she didn’t know how he would do it.*) What did Jesus tell the servers to do? (*John 2:7-8. To fill the purification jars with water and take some to the person in charge.*) What was unusual about this wine? (*John 2:10. It was better than the first wine served.*) What was the result of this miracle? (*John 2:11. Jesus made his glory public or revealed that he was God’s Son and his disciples believed in him.*)

Why do you think Jesus chose a wedding feast to perform his first miracle? Why do you think Jesus provided so much wine (*six large jars filled to the brim*)? (*Maybe to show that he not only provides for our necessities but also luxuries. Maybe Jesus gave the wine as a gift to last a long time or because the bride and groom were poor and could have sold it.*) What can we learn for ourselves from the words, “Do whatever he tells you”? (*When we trust in Jesus, we can expect to be changed. When we run out of something, we can go to Jesus and have faith to do whatever he tells us.*)

PRAYER: Have each family member thank God for some things that bring them joy.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Start a new family custom of “the special plate.” Purchase a red plate and bring it out on special occasions such as birthdays or special accomplishments. The guest of honor uses the plate, and everyone else celebrates by saying a special prayer of thanksgiving over that person. It’s a great time to recognize that God is behind our celebrations and key events in our life.