

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of January 20th, 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: **Everyone!***

COLOR CHANGE: Notice that the different colors of the altar and the stoles (the sash that the pastors wear over their albs/robes) changed! The colors help us mark the time of the church year. We have switched to **green** in honor of **Epiphany**. Epiphany's message of Christ's revelation to the Gentiles along with the season's traditional emphasis on extending Christ's kingdom through missions, calls for the use of green—the color symbolic of growth.

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

"Pick 'Em Up:" If you have a car, come to church, and have room for others you are perfect for this important task. We have a number of shut-ins and older members that enjoy coming to St. Matthew for worship and Christian community but they cannot drive. They want to come let us help them get here. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping with this important ministry. Simply, "Pick 'Em up!"

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 18-24. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 – ¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

-Hymn: *O Christ, Our True and Only Light* LSB 839 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 19

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Apostles' Creed: Third Article, What does this mean?, pg. 17-18. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Seventh Commandment, pg. 105-109.

-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: Say to family members as they gather: "Let's pretend that someone doesn't believe you are who you say you are. How would you prove it? Everyone go get something that will prove you are you." (*Suggestions: pictures, ID cards or a possession with their name on it.*) Challenge their identities nonetheless. "Could this be frustrating? Today we will see how Jesus proves he is God's Son."

READ THE BIBLE: John 2:13-25

KEY VERSES: Romans 1:3-4, "*This Good News is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.... he was declared the Son of God. This was shown in a powerful way when he came back to life.*"

TALK ABOUT IT: When Jesus cleared the temple courtyard of the sellers and moneychangers, he said, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" Whose house was he declaring the temple to be? (*God's.*) Who was Jesus claiming to be when he said the temple was his Father's house? (*God's Son.*) What did the Jews ask Jesus to do to justify what he was doing and saying? (*John 2:18. A miracle.*) What miracle did Jesus claim he could do? (*John 2:19. Tear down this temple, and he would rebuild it in three days.*) What did he really mean? (*John 2:21. He was talking about his own body and predicting he would rise again when he was killed.*) Do you think we have the right to ask God to prove himself by doing signs or miracles? (*We don't*) Is it ever okay to ask God to do a miracle? (*Yes.*) What is the difference? (*God wants us to ask him for all things to show that we trust him and believe he is all-powerful and mighty. We have to trust that he will answer in the way he thinks best, not the way we think is best or as a test that he is God.*) What does the key verse say is proof that Jesus is God's Son? (*That he came back to life after death.*)

PRAYER: Thank God that he proved his love for us by sending Jesus to die in our place and receiving the punishment for our sin. Thank him for raising Jesus from the dead, proving Jesus is the Son of God. Ask the Holy Spirit for more faith to believe in the power of Jesus' resurrection and to be his witnesses.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Who are people you know that may not believe that Jesus is God's Son? Write their names down and pray for them this week. Look for a time to share that Jesus proved that he was God's Son when he rose from the dead. He also proved his love for us by giving his life as a payment for our sins.