

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of February 3rd, 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 Young Children!*

KNOW YOUR CHILD!!! Worship with a Young Child: The young child comes to worship with: a rather limited attention span, seemingly unlimited energy, and a growing curiosity about everything. No one knows your child better than you do. Spend time with them. Learn how to catch their attention. Figure out ways to channel their energy into the service, like singing, or praying a psalm.

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

Be a Regular: Adopt a local café, park, gas station, shop and become a regular there. By doing this you will get to know those that work there and those that are “locals” there. Get to know their names and use them. Ask them how they are doing and be sincere. Be the person there that warms their hearts and makes them say “O good! Here comes ___ (insert your name)!” As you do all this always be asking yourself “What good news of Jesus does ___ need to hear” and look for opportunities to share 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 Joshua 8-14. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Luke 5:10b-11 – And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

-Hymn: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* LSB 398 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 81

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Commandments 6-10, What does this mean?, pg. 14-15. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Ninth and Tenth Commandment, pg. 115-119.

-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: Serve popcorn to make everyone thirsty. Then serve water as you discuss: “Tell about a time at school when you felt left out, or tell about a time you felt your friends left you out.” After discussion say, “The Samaritan woman probably felt the same way. Jesus accepted her and offered her living water. How is that different from this water?”

READ THE BIBLE: John 4:1-42

KEY VERSE: Romans 5:6, *“Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people.”*

TALK ABOUT IT: What did Jesus first say to the Samaritan woman? (*John 4:7. Give me a drink of water.*) Why was the woman surprised that Jesus spoke to her? (*John 4:9. He was a Jewish man. She was a Samaritan woman. Jews did not associate with Samaritans.*) How was Jesus’ water different than the water from this well? (*John 4:13. If one drank from the water in the well, he/she would get thirsty again. Jesus was offering living water. Those who drank it would never get thirsty again.*) What did Jesus tell the woman he knew about her? (*John 4:17-18. She had five husbands previously and the man she lived with was not her husband.*) What did this woman do because Jesus told her he knew her secrets? (*John 4:28-29. She left her water jar, went back to the city and told the people that she had met a man who told her everything she had ever done.*) Who did Jesus say he was to this woman? (*John 4:24-26. The Messiah or the Christ.*) What was the result of this woman’s witness? (*John 4:39. Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of her.*) How did the Samaritans grow in faith during Jesus’ two-day visit? (*John 4:42. Their faith was no longer based on what the woman said, but now they had heard him themselves, they believed Jesus was the Savior of the world.*) What can we conclude because Jesus went to the sinful Samaritan woman and spent time teaching the Samaritans? (*That Jesus accepts all people, even sinners.*) How else can you describe Jesus’ living water or “spring that gushes up to eternal life”? (*Baptism! Faith in Jesus as the Savior who brings eternal life. The hope, joy and peace we have because of Jesus.*)

PRAYER: Thank Jesus that he came to earth and died for ungodly people to fill us with his living water. Thank him that when we drink from Jesus’ living water, or believe in him as our Savior, we can have life with him that lasts forever. Pray for this living water to flow through our lives to others so they may also drink the living water and have eternal life.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Jesus went to the Samaritans and helped them learn of him, even though the Samaritans were a different culture or race. Which different race or culture could your family help, either by praying for them or supporting a ministry to them?