

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of February 10th, 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!*

KNOW YOUR CHILD!!! Worship with an Older Child: The older child brings some new abilities to worship: a greater capacity for attentive listening, an increasing ability to read, and the ability to organize and memorize information. Teach them how to use the hymnal. Lead by example in getting them to sing by singing yourself! God doesn't care if you sing like Oscar the Grouch or Carrie Underwood. He made you, and He loves you just as you are. Also, make sure they are paying attention. Quizzing them after church is a good way to encourage their participation, plus the theme of worship that day goes home with you and has a better chance of impacting your week and your life!

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

Workplace Ideas – Eat with others: Lunch time is a great time to be relational in your workplace. Instead of eating your lunch at your desk or at a park bench by yourself invite someone to join you. Be intentional about eating with other coworkers. Learn their story and tell them yours. Remember, a natural part of your story is God's work in your life! However, you do not always need to talk about Jesus. First you need to listen and show you care. Be intentional about blessing your coworkers with lunchtime conversations.

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 15-21. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 1 Corinthians 15:19-20 – ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

-Hymn: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* LSB 394 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 112

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer: Introduction and First Petition, What does this mean?, pg. 19-20. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Close of the Commandments, pg. 120-127.

-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: Discuss: "What are ways people make promises in our home?" (*Wedding ring? Scheduled vacations on the calendar? List of weekly responsibilities? Food in the refrigerator?*) Have each person share an important promise that has been made to him or her.

READ THE BIBLE: John 4:43-54

KEY VERSE: Psalm 145:13, "...*The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.*" (NIV)

TALK ABOUT IT: What miracle did Jesus do in Cana? (*John 4:46. He did his first miracle: changing water into wine.*) Do you think the official was at the wedding to see Jesus' miracle? (*Only Mary, the servants and Jesus' disciples knew Jesus had changed the water into wine. See John 2:7-11.*) How do you think the official knew Jesus could do miracles? (*He had heard people in Cana talk about what Jesus had done.*) Why do you think Jesus told the official, "If people don't see miracles and amazing things, they won't believe"? (*Jesus probably knew this man had not seen his miracles, but believed.*) What did Jesus say to the official when he asked Jesus to come with him to Capernaum and heal his sick son? (*John 4:49-50. "Go home. Your son will live."*) How did the man demonstrate that he believed Jesus? (*He did what Jesus said and left. He didn't have to see Jesus perform a miracle; he believed Jesus would keep his promise.*) What happened to prove Jesus kept his promise? (*John 4:51-53. The official's servants met him on his way home to Capernaum and told him his son was better. When the official asked what time the boy became better, they told him it happened about the same time Jesus said, "Your son will live."*) What did the official do because of Jesus' promise? (*John 4:53. He and his entire family became believers. They didn't just believe Jesus' words, but they now believed IN Jesus.*)

PRAYER: Thank God that we can trust his promises, especially the promise of salvation.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: God promises that He will always care for us, even when we face troubling times. Let each person write down a promise that Jesus has made to us. Keep these in a special place so that you can take them out again and read them when a trying or difficult time arises.