

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of February 17th, 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!***

What kinds of snacks are okay for church? Dry snacks can help an infant or toddler make it through the sermon but try to choose snacks that are easy to vacuum if crushed. Raisins stain clothes and carpeting when someone steps on them or sits on them. Drink boxes work better as an after church enjoyment as sticky spills cause problems for others. Water is the best drink once an infant is no longer fed by bottle or nursing.

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

Workplace Ideas – Welcome Newbies: Be intentional about being the first person to greet those new to your workplace. In doing this, go out of your way to make them feel comfortable, important, and in the loop. Take them out for lunch, check in with them, show them you care, and that they can trust you. Doing this will not only bless your workplace but it will also open doors to share your faith story, invite to church, or just give a good Christian witness.

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 22-24 and Amos 1-4. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 – ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

-Hymn: *My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker* LSB 820 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 114

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer: Second Petition, What does this mean?, pg. 20. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Apostles' Creed, pg. 128-132.

-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: Gather some broken objects or toys. Talk about when something broken is worth keeping and when it should be thrown away. Often it is kept when it is valuable or could be fixed. Say: "What about people? Do they break? Sometimes they feel broken on the inside when they are very sad, or maybe they have done something very wrong. Does God throw them away or fix them or what?" (*He heals broken lives when people trust in Jesus!*)

READ THE BIBLE: John 5:1-47

KEY VERSE: Psalm 147:3, "*He is the healer of the brokenhearted. He is the one who bandages their wounds.*"

TALK ABOUT IT: Jesus went to a pool at Bethesda where a large number of sick people would lie. He asked one man if he wanted to get well. What did Jesus know about this man? (*John 5:6. That he had been sick for a long time.*) How long had this man been sick? (*John 5:5. 38 years.*) What did the man think he needed to be healed? (*John 5:7. He thought he had to get into the water when it was stirred, but there was no one to help him get in.*) What did Jesus do to heal this man? (*John 5:8. He told the man to get up, pick up his cot, and walk.*) How long did it take for the man to be healed after Jesus spoke? (*John 5:9. Immediately.*) What did the man have to do to be healed? (*Nothing.*) Why do you think Jesus picked this man to heal from all of the other hurting people? (*We don't know, but maybe Jesus felt sorry that the man had no one to help him. Maybe Jesus knew he was broken inside and didn't have much hope. Maybe to show the power he had to heal since the man had been lame for so long.*)

How was Jesus "wounded for our rebellious acts and crushed for our sins"? Isaiah 53:5. (*He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins and rebellion.*) How do we receive peace and healing from his wounds? (*His Spirit comes to us and heals us on the inside by pointing us to Jesus as our Savior. We can believe and trust in his promises for our lives now and have hope for everlasting life.*)

PRAYER: Encourage family members to pray about their brokenness and ask for Jesus' to heal us by His Word. Thank God that Jesus heals because he gave his life for us when he died on the cross and is now alive to live with us.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Families are important tools that God uses to help heal broken lives. Family members especially need to show love to the one who is feeling broken inside. Let each person describe what he or she usually does when they feel sad. Do they like to talk to others? Like to be alone? Do something fun? Each person may be different. Learn how to best show love to each person when they are feeling broken. Above all, we point to Jesus!