

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of March 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: **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. **White** is the color of purity and completeness and is used primarily during the **Sundays of the Easter season** to remind us that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. It is also used for the same message for festive Sundays: Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; **the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday;** Holy Trinity Sunday; All-Saints' Day; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in Lutheran Worship.

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

Game Night! – Dust off those old games in your closet and invite your neighbors over! This is a fun, easy-going way to get to know your neighbors better. That allows you to connect with them, be a part of their lives, and be there for them in their times of need. Over time, you can start asking about their faith, where they go to church, etc., to strike up the conversation.

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 Romans 3-9. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Luke 4:7-8 – ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

-Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* LSB 656/657 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 91

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer: Fourth Petition, What does this mean?, pg. 21. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The First Article, Part Two, pg. 146-155.

-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: Pass out small rocks to every family member. Ask: "Can you think of someone who is always doing wrong? Without naming them, describe what they do." Discuss. "Do you think you could help them stop doing wrong by throwing rocks at them? Why or why not?" Discuss. "What do we see Jesus do in Scripture when people commit sin?" (*He helps them admit what they have done is wrong, then forgives them.*)

READ THE BIBLE: John 7:37-8:11

KEY VERSES: John 3:17-18a, "God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. Those who believe in him won't be condemned."

TALK ABOUT IT: What punishment did the scribes and Pharisees believe the woman caught in adultery deserved? (*John 8:4. According to the teachings of Moses, she should be stoned to death.*) Why did the Pharisees and scribes bring this woman before Jesus and ask him what should be done with her? (*John 8:6. They wanted to trap Jesus so they could bring charges against him.*) What was Jesus' response? (*John 8:6-7. Jesus agreed that the law said she should be stoned but said the one who was sinless should throw the first stone.*) What do you think Jesus may have been writing in the dirt? (*We don't know! Maybe listing the sins of those present. He may have been writing the other laws of Moses and the consequences for those sins.*) What did the scribes and Pharisees do when Jesus said this? (*John 8:9. One by one they left.*) Who was the only person present who could have thrown a stone at the woman? (*Jesus, because he did not sin.*) What did Jesus do instead? (*John 8:11. He said he did not condemn the woman.*) What did he tell the woman now that she was free? (*John 8:11. "Go! From now on don't sin."*) How do you think the woman felt and how did her life change? (*Allow time for kids to think about this before they respond.*)

PRAYER: Ask God's forgiveness for thinking of ourselves as better than others, when we also are at fault. Thank God for sending Jesus to take away the punishment that we deserve. Thank him that when we believe in Jesus as the Savior, he no longer condemns us. Pray for the Holy Spirit's power that when we judge it may be to warn our neighbor of their sin, so that they can repent and trust in God. Pray for those who willingly sin against God.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Make a habit that anytime the family is discussing something wrong that someone has done, instead of just talking about it, write that person's name on a card, place it in the Bible and pray for that person when you have devotions.