

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of March 24th, 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!***

Should I let my child sit with their friends? Some wise parents we know allow their child to sit with another child only if they are sitting with that child's parents. A group of children sitting together without an adult often results in distracting behavior. We think families should sit and worship together.

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

Office Potlucks – A fun way to get to know your coworkers, and spruce up the office lunch hour a bit, would be to start a weekly or monthly lunch potluck. Invite everyone to bring a dish of some kind to share. The possibilities are endless for both food and 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 Judges 8-14. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Isaiah 12:2 (Challenge! v. 1-6) – "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

-Hymn: *God Loved the World So that He Gave* LSB 571 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 76

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer: Seventh Petition and Conclusion, What does this mean?, pg. 22. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Second Article, Part Two, pg. 176-187.

-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: Buy a lima bean (or some other small plant) and place it in a zip lock bag with a wet cotton ball. Tape this to a window facing the sun. As you watch it grow, think about how Jesus' presence in your life is growing. Discuss how Jesus' presence is seen in your family.

READ THE BIBLE: John 12:12-33

KEY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:15, *"He died for all people so that those who live should no longer live for themselves..."*

TALK ABOUT IT: What did the people say about Jesus as they waved palm branches when he entered Jerusalem? (*John 12:13. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel!"*) Who did they recognize him as? (*A king.*) How did Jesus fulfill the prophecies or what did Scripture say in John 12:14-15? (*He came riding on a donkey.*)

How do you think Jesus was feeling in John 12:27-28? Did he want to die? Why or why not? How is a grain of wheat like Jesus according to John 12:24? (*Just like the seed had to die and be planted in the ground to produce a lot of grain, Jesus had to die, be buried and rise again. We are some of those "seeds"!*)

PRAYER: Pray for faith in Jesus to continue to grow in each family member's life. Thank Jesus that **he gave his life for us, and that we can share him with others.* Pray for those with whom you want to share the good news of Jesus.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Read about the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-26. Write each of these characteristics on a separate 3 x 5-inch card. Decorate each card with fruit candy or drawings. Throughout the week, award any family member who demonstrates a specific fruit of the Spirit with the corresponding "fruit of the Spirit" card. This is both a special recognition and evidence of Jesus bearing fruit in their life.