

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of April 7th, 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 of Young Children!***

How can we teach our child to sit still? A great way to teach your child how to sit still in church is to actually start by teaching your child to sit still at home. One proven way is called "blanket time." This one works best with young children, particularly infants and toddlers. Put out a small blanket for the child to sit on and give them just one small toy to play with. Keep them on that blanket for 15-20 minutes. The purpose is practicing quiet time. You are training and teaching your child to be content with a single toy in a confined space. Doing regular devotions together at home is also a helpful way to prepare children to learn to sit in church. Other simple things: sit near the front so children can see, and be in church regularly so they get used to it!

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

Easter 2 – Egg Hunt! Throw a neighborhood Easter Egg hunt. Invite your neighbors to be part of the fun and use multiple yards. Be aware of traffic if children will have to cross the street. Make cross or empty tomb shaped cookies or ask a pastor for materials you might be able to share!

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 Esther 1-7. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Deuteronomy 32:39 – "See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god beside Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of My hand."

-Hymn: *A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth* LSB 438 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 37

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Apostles' Creed, Second Article, What does this mean?, pg. 17. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Third Article, Part One, pg. 195-204.

-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 ice cream or dessert as you discuss: “What are things you like in a friend?” Next offer a few drops of lemon juice as a topping. If anyone takes some, discuss the sour taste. “Sometimes friendships turn sour when a friend disappoints us. What can we do when that happens?” Discuss. “Jesus was a faithful friend, even when his friend Peter denied him.”

READ THE BIBLE: John 16:25-18:27

KEY VERSE: Hebrews 10:23, “*We must continue to hold firmly to our declaration of faith. The one who made the promise is faithful.*”

TALK ABOUT IT: Who was Jesus praying for in John 17:9? (*For those God gave him, his disciples.*) Who else is included in this prayer according to John 17:20? (*All believers, even us today.*) What does Jesus pray for the disciples and all believers in John 17:15? (*To be protected from the evil one.*) What does Jesus pray for in John 17:24? (*That all believers will be with Jesus in heaven.*) Which disciple betrayed Jesus to the chief priests and Pharisees? (*John 18:2-3. Judas.*) Why did Jesus not put up a fight when the soldiers came to arrest him? (*John 18:4, 11. He knew it was God’s will that he die. See also John 16:32.*) Did Jesus seem afraid and timid of the guards and soldiers? (*No. John 18:6. Jesus intimidated the crowd. They backed away and fell down. Jesus spoke to them and to Peter with authority.*) How did Jesus protect the disciples in John 18:8? (*He told the guards that since they were looking for only Jesus of Nazareth, let the others go.*)

Read John 18:15-18, 25-27. Peter was one of Jesus’ closest disciples. How many times did Peter deny he knew Jesus? (*Three times.*) Why do you think Peter denied him? (*He was afraid he, too, would be arrested.*) How do you think Jesus felt after Peter denied him and he was facing the high priest and Pharisees all alone? How were the words of Caiaphas, the chief priest, fulfilled in John 18:14? (*He said it was better that one man die for the people. Jesus, the Savior, died for the sins of all people.*) How does it make you feel to know that even before you were born, Jesus prayed that you would be protected from Satan and that you would be with him in heaven?

PRAYER: Encourage family members to take turns confessing times they were not faithful to God and sinned. Then close in prayer thanking God that he sent Jesus to take the punishment of our sins for us. Thank him that we face no condemnation because of Jesus, even when we are not faithful. Thank him that we can always trust that he will be faithful to us.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Make a habit as a family to pray for people with whom family members might have had conflict. Then put the best construction on them and speak well of them whenever you can. This helps create a forgiveness-filled atmosphere in your home.