

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of May 5th, 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!***

Give the reason why: As your child is old enough to understand, give them knowledge to take ownership of their behavior. Their understanding shouldn't just be that I don't do that "because Dad and Mom said so", but because they know why. Example: If a younger child is running at the Lent supper at Church, explain that people are carrying plates or drinks and they could cause an accident.

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

Accept the Invitation – Many of these tips have focused on inviting others to you. But not today. This is the simple reminder that we often have the opportunity given to us. Maybe your neighbor is throwing a party for a birthday or holiday. Maybe your apartment complex or home owner's association is having some kind of gathering. Go! It's an easy way to be involved in your community and get to know your neighbors.

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 Jeremiah 12-18. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Acts 20:35 – In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

-Hymn: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* LSB 709, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 86

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Baptism, Part 3, pg. 24. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Lord's Prayer Introduction, pg. 237-241.

-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: Ask family members to think of a time when they said they would do something for someone else, but somehow ended up not doing it. Let each share their story. After discussion, you might use this option: show a suitcase packed with one of the kid's clothes as if they would be asked to move out after making a mistake. Then discuss how ridiculous this would be. Even after mistakes, children are still loved and accepted by good parents. So it is with Jesus. He still invites us to follow Him after we make mistakes. In fact, He died for those, too!

READ THE BIBLE: John 21:1-25

KEY VERSE: Romans 5:8, *"Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us."*

TALK ABOUT IT: Why do you think Peter returned to his fishing business? (*Maybe he felt disqualified to be in the disciple-making business. It is what he knew how to do to make money and provide for his family.*) How long had Peter and the other disciples fished and caught nothing? (*John 21:3. All night.*) What did Jesus, standing on the shore, tell them to do to catch fish? (*John 21:6. Throw the net out on the right side of the boat.*) What happened when they did this? (*They had so many fish in their net they were unable to pull it in.*) What can we learn from this about trying to fish for men? (*When we try on our own and are unsuccessful, we should listen to Jesus and do it his way.*) Why do you think the disciples didn't recognize Jesus until after they caught the fish? (*Jesus often made Himself unrecognizable. Jesus wasn't constantly with them after he rose from the dead. This was only the third time he had appeared to them after his resurrection (John 21:14), and they probably weren't expecting him. They recognized him then because the same thing happened when he first called them to be his disciples as found in Luke 5:1-11.*) What crazy thing did Peter do when he realized it was Jesus on the shore? (*John 21:7. He jumped in the water and swam to shore.*) Why do you think he did this? (*He was so eager to be with Jesus and couldn't wait.*) Why did Jesus ask three times the same question of Peter, "Do you love me?" (*Peter had denied Jesus three times, so Jesus gave him complete assurance he was forgiven.*) Why do you think Peter felt sad that Jesus had asked him this question three times? (*Maybe it reminded him of the three times he denied Jesus. Maybe he wondered if Jesus really trusted him now.*)

What did Jesus do and say that let Peter know Jesus still wanted Peter to be a fisher of men? (*Jesus did the same miracle of filling the net with fish the first time he called Peter to be a disciple. Jesus asked Peter three times to feed his lambs and take care of his sheep, Jesus' followers. Jesus told Peter again in John 21:22, "...Follow me!"*)

PRAYER: Encourage family members to pray for any failures or burdens and give them to God. Thank God for raising Jesus from the dead so that we can live forever.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Think of how your family this week can do one thing that would help "feed Jesus' lambs." In other words, how can you share God's word with others in your home, neighborhood, workplace, school or church?