

## **Faith at Home Corner** - *For the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 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. **Red** is used on **Pentecost Sunday**. On this day we remember the power and fire of "the Lord and Giver of Life," who revealed Himself as the promised one. The color red communicates the motif of strength, which the Holy Spirit gives in order for God's people to call on the name of Jesus Christ and share that powerful name with others. Consequently, it serves well as the traditional color for the heroic martyrs of the church. The Lutheran Service Book church year calendar provides for sixteen martyr festivals. Their red blood shed in defense of the Gospel offers perpetual encouragement for God's people to be resolute in living the faith. Additional uses of red are Reformation Sunday; Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14); on such festive occasions as dedications, anniversaries of a congregation and its physical structure; and festive days celebrating the office of the public ministry, such as ordination and installation.

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

**Prayer walk** - Walk around your neighborhood using what you see as fuel for prayer. Pray for people, homes, businesses, community groups and community needs. Ask God to open your eyes to where He is at work and to fill your heart with love for your neighborhood.

**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 47-52 and 1 Thessalonians 1. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: John 8:51 – Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.

-Hymn: *Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest*                      [LSB 498/499](#), also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 42

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Lord's Prayer, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Petition, pg. 21-22. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Lord's Prayer: The Fifth Petition, pg. 264-268.

-Devotions resources: grab a copy of *Portals of Prayer* at church or subscribe to daily email devotions from [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org), [www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://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:** Have each family member tell about a time they prayed for something and God answered. Afterwards say: "You have told the story of how God helps you. It helps others to hear how God helped you."

**READ THE BIBLE:** Acts 26

**KEY VERSE:** 1 Peter 3:15, *"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."* (NIV)

**TALK ABOUT IT:** The Bible event describes Paul's personal story. Have kids retell or summarize Paul's "My story" from Acts 26:4-15. *(Paul was a Pharisee. He used to do lots of things to oppose Jesus of Nazareth. He locked Christians in prison, punished them, forced them to curse the name of Jesus, hunted them down and voted to have them killed. Then on his way to Damascus, he saw a bright light and fell to the ground. He heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul Why are you persecuting me?")* What did Paul say about Jesus or how did he tell "His story?" (Read or have kids read Acts 26:15-18.) How did this experience change Paul's life? *(Acts 26:19-23. Paul spread the message of Jesus to people in Jerusalem and then to the whole country of Judea. He even felt confident to stand and testify before King Agrippa.)*

How does Paul's story encourage you? How does his faith in Jesus and his confidence that God is always with him, help you? What is the hope that you have with Jesus as your Savior? *(Everlasting life and God is always with us.)*

**PRAYER:** Thank God for sending his Son to die on the cross. Thank him that Jesus rose again to conquer sin and death. Thank Him that He promises to always be with us. Ask God to help family members share their stories of how Jesus helped them. But most importantly, ask God to help all share *His* story with others.

## Family Time Option

*One day this week, try...*

**FAMILY TIME OPTIONS:** Have each family member think about how they can help someone else by sharing their story about Jesus with that person. Check your progress next week.