

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of September 29th, 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!***

Why do we sing hymns? Hymns are full of well-thought prayers, songs of praise, and wonderful teaching that points us to Jesus! The wording sometimes is a little strange as they try to fit it to the tune, like a poem trying to rhyme. Read today's hymns with your child. Talk about what they mean. Even pray the hymns together. This will make singing the hymn later all the more meaningful and powerful.

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

Going Digital – Consider starting a neighborhood Facebook/Twitter group. Here you could share contact information in case of emergency, chat about needs in your community, or organize ways to get together.

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 John 8-14. Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Luke 17:3-4 – ³Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

-Hymn: *I Know My Faith is Founded* LSB 587, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 47

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on To Husbands, To Wives on pg. 35. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – Who is Jesus?, pg. 351-353.

-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: Before calling the family together, set an egg up on its end. Pour 1/8 tsp of salt on a table. Set the egg with its bottom end on the salt until it is balancing. Blow away the excess salt from around the egg. The egg will balance on the salt but the salt cannot be detected. Now invite the family to devotions and ask them to do the impossible: balance an egg on its end. Then show them that you did it. All might have a good laugh after you explain how. This introduces how Sarah laughed when she heard the strange visitors (God and His angels) tell her that she would become a mother at the age of ninety. No tricks there. God really did do the impossible!

READ THE BIBLE: Read in Genesis 18:1-15 and 21:1-6 how Isaac is promised to Abraham and Sarah.

KEY VERSE: Genesis 18:14: *“Is anything too hard for the LORD?”*

TALK ABOUT IT: Abraham and Sarah had three visitors. Who were they? (*Genesis 18. Two were angels and the third was the Lord Himself!*) What did the three visitors promise? (*They promised that Sarah would have a son.*) What did Sarah do when she overheard this? (*She laughed.*) Why do you think Sarah had such a hard time believing she would have a baby? When was this promise fulfilled? (*Genesis 17:21, 18:14. Within a year.*) How old was Abraham? (*100.*) How old was Sarah? (*90.*) How do you think Abraham felt after the visitors left? What name did Abraham and Sarah choose for their son and why? (*Genesis 17:19. Isaac because it means “laughter/he laughs”*)

Can God do the impossible? (*Yes.*) Read the key verse. Can you think of an example of when God did something very special to help you or your family?

PRAYER: Gather prayer requests about those things that may seem impossible but with God would be possible. Especially emphasize the things that point us to Jesus.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Make a “Top Ten Impossible List.” This list includes those things that seem impossible but if they happened, there would be a God-pleasing effect. These need not be big miracles but, perhaps, what seem to be small “that-will-never-happen” events. Post these on your refrigerator and pray for them intentionally and regularly.