

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of October 6th, 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!***

Should I punish my child for misbehaving in church? Avoid punishment or reward if possible. Calmly talk with children and redirect their behavior by explaining the standards you have set. This may take consistency and patience. Happy noise made by an infant or toddler is not bad behavior...it's another kind of praise and we are certain God loves it! And yes, crying by an infant or toddler happens, too!

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

Going Digital – Make use of technology to share the gospel! Email a daily devotion to a friend or someone else who may appreciate it. You can find several of these in the links below. Use your social media to share God's Word, messages of encouragement, and talk about what Jesus has done for you!

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 15-21. Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 2 Timothy 2:11-13 – ¹¹The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; ¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself."

-Hymn: *Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old* LSB 846, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 119:1-24

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on To Parents, To Children on pg. 35-36. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – Reading God's Word, pg. 354-357.

-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: Place a stuffed animal by the fireplace or on the coffee table. Talk about how much it would hurt the owner of that toy to have it sacrificed or burned up. Let other family members talk about those things that would be hard to offer up as a sacrifice on the altar. Ask everyone, "What would be the hardest single thing to give up by laying it on the altar?" Don't just think about things. Consider relationships or people that would be hard to let go. Do you think God asks you to give those to Him?

READ THE BIBLE: Read in Genesis 22 how Abraham offers Isaac as a sacrifice.

KEY VERSES: Romans 12:1: *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."* 1 John 3:16a: *"By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."*

TALK ABOUT IT: What did God tell Abraham to do that seemed strange? (*Sacrifice Isaac.*) Just when Abraham was ready to sacrifice Isaac, what happened? (*God told him to stop. God provided a ram.*) Why do you think God did this to Abraham? (*To test him and see how much he trusted God.*)

God also laid his Son on the altar. It wasn't an altar like Abraham built out of stone. Jesus' altar was the cross. On the cross, Jesus was sacrificed to pay the price for our sins. Did Jesus do this willingly? Yes! He gave His life as a living sacrifice for us. Jesus laid down His life but He did not stay dead. He rose from the dead! Now He promises to be with anyone who trusts Him as the one who rescues them from their sin. God also wants us to be *living* sacrifices. (See Romans 12:1.) How do we do that? Is there someone you know who doesn't know how Jesus gave His life as a living sacrifice for all of us? Whose job is it to share that message of Jesus?

PRAYER: As we thank God for Jesus, ask the Holy Spirit to show you ways you can be a living sacrifice for God. Pray for others who need to meet Jesus as the one who laid His life on the altar for them.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

As parents, bless your children at night when you put them to bed. Pray over them, entrusting them to the Lord's care. They already belong to the Lord. They are simply on loan to you so that you might help them grow up and be firm in their faith in Christ. As you release them to the Lord, pray that He will bless you with an even deeper relationship with your children.