

## **Faith at Home Corner** - *For the week of November 10<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 and worthwhile! 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. We have switched to **green** in honor of the **Pentecost** season. These Sundays emphasize the subject of growth. Green is a neutral color, but there is nothing colorless about our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's why the "green meadow" time of the church year is so lengthy. Time must be given to encourage all worshipers to maintain their faith through the constant use of God's means of grace.

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

**Be an Encourager** – Find ways to encourage your neighbor, rather than tear them down. Write notes of encouragement to someone else. Speak thanks, not complaints. Lift up your neighbor in conversation and put an end to gossip.

**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 Proverbs 22-28. Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Luke 21:8 (for a challenge, add verses 16-19!) – "And He said, 'See that you are not led astray. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them.'"

-Hymn: *The Day is Surely Drawing Near* **LSB** 508, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 119:126-152

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Christian Questions with Their Answers 11-20 on pg. 38-40. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Church Year, Terms Relating to Worship and God's House, pg. 377-386.

-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:** Place a plate over the kitchen table. Give every family member a fork and play a game of passing an uncooked egg from fork to fork. (Just make sure you do so over the plate!) Make sure you pass the egg at a height of at least 18 inches. It won't take long for someone to miss and have the egg drop and crack. This will be a mess. Separate the eggshell out of the egg and add the egg to a brownie mix. Prepare and bake. What started off as a mess turned out to be a blessing. God can make good even out of family messes.

**READ THE BIBLE:** Read the events of Genesis 29:13-31:55 of the relationship Jacob had with his Uncle Laban.

**KEY VERSE:** Psalm 145:18, *"The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth."*

**TALK ABOUT IT:** How was Jacob tricked? (*Genesis 29:16-28. Laban gave him Leah to marry instead of Rachel.*) Jacob's family was divided because of lying. Jacob had to run away from home because he lied to his father (*Genesis 27:1-41*). We don't know if he ever saw his mother again. Jacob and his brother were divided as well, and he was afraid of Esau. Now that his Uncle Laban had lied to him, do you think Jacob was tired of lies and saw how they hurt people?

Can you think of a time when you told a lie and it hurt someone else? What does lying do to families? What should you do if you lie to someone in your family? (*ask for forgiveness!*)

God wants our families to be put back together. The way He does this is by sending part of His own family, His dear Son Jesus, into the world. Jesus gave His life for us when He died on the cross. As we trust Jesus, He lives in our heart and helps us tell the truth and forgive others who might have lied to us.

**PRAYER:** Thank Jesus that He came to put our families back together. Pray to be able to ask for forgiveness when a member hurts someone else. Also pray for the strength to forgive another for that hurt.

## Family Time Option

*One day this week, try...*

While you eat the brownies, let family members talk about times when something happened that seemed to be mess, yet God worked it out for good.