

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of February 2nd, 2020*

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. **White** is the color of **purity and completeness** and is used primarily during the Sundays of the Easter season to remind us that "**though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.**" Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. It is also used for the same message for festive Sundays: Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; All-Saints' Day; and **seventeen minor festivals and occasions (such as this weekend's "Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord")** listed on the church year calendar in Lutheran Service Book.

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

Block Party! – Whether it's the lovely outdoors or tucked inside due to poor weather, have people in your neighborhood over. You can prepare a meal, call it a potluck, or just do drinks or desserts. Be hospitable, get to know your neighbors, and learn to love 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 Matthew 8-14! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 1 Corinthians 2:2 (Challenge! 2:2, 5-7) – "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

-Hymn: *Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness*

LSB 578, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 69

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Ten Commandments, Commands 6-10 and their meanings on pg. 14-15. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Ninth Commandment and its meaning, pg. 115-119.

-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: Give every member of your family a Tootsie Roll or taffy candy and let him roll it out in the shape of a fishhook. (Licorice or even biscuit dough could be used.) As they make their fishhooks, have each person tell about a time they were reminded of God's love for them. The fishhook can remind them of how God has "hooked" them with His love. It also is in the shape of a "J," which stands for Jesus (that's the story of the candy cane too!).

READ THE BIBLE: Matthew 4:17-25, Jesus calls His first disciples.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 4:19: *"And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"*

TALK ABOUT IT: What were the names of the four disciples Jesus chose? *(Peter, Andrew, James, and John.)* How soon did they leave to follow Jesus? *(Immediately.)* Why do you think they left immediately to follow Jesus? *(We don't actually know! God brought them to faith, to trust in Jesus and the work He was going to give them to do in making disciples of all the nations.)* What was the connection between the disciples' job and what Jesus was asking them to do? *(They were fishermen and Jesus was asking them to catch people.)* What was the bait Jesus used to get people to follow Him? *(He talked about the good news of His kingdom, good news of forgiveness and life. He also cured every disease and sickness among the people.)*

Did you know that Jesus is also calling you to catch people for Him? Why do you think it is so important that we do it immediately? *(All people need to know Jesus' love for them and you may be the only person to tell them.)*

PRAYER: Pray for ideas to do this week to share Jesus' love and be fishers of men.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Make a fishbowl of names that members of your family are praying for and encouraging spiritually. You could use a real fishbowl or another bowl. Think of ways you could pray for these people, spiritually encourage them, or witness to them.

You might have an encouragement card party where you draw names and write an encouraging card or email. Dessert or snack ideas to go along with this activity are goldfish crackers, Swedish fish, gummy worms, or blue gelatin in a clear bowl (possibly with the candies poked in!).