

## **Faith at Home Corner** - *For the week of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. **Purple** is a penitential color used during **Lent**. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer. Purple dye was rare, and therefore expensive. Only royalty could afford it. As part of the soldiers mocking Jesus, they put a purple garment on Him. It then helps us during Lent to remember the contempt and the scorn He endured as He sacrificed Himself for our sake. It calls our attention then to our daily need to live a life of repentance.

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

**Workplace Ideas – Bring Extras** – People like food. Jell-O used to advertise that the way to a man's heart was through his stomach. So, why not serve your coworkers in this way? When you're packing your lunch, why not grab a couple extra snacks to share. Or, if there's a breakroom at the office, fill it with work appropriate drinks for your coworkers to enjoy and converse over. Get to know what they like so you can serve them even better!

**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 Deuteronomy 4-10! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: John 3:16 (Challenge! John 3:14-17) – "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

-Hymn: *Children of the Heavenly Father* LSB 725, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#) \*(this week's hymn of the week is actually 708, "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart")

-Psalm: 121

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer, Fourth Petition on pg. 21. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Apostles' Creed, First Article (Part 2) pg. 146-155.

-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:** Prepare and hide a special treat or snack. Make one clue that leads to a second clue that leads to a third clue and finally leads to the treat. Put the clues in envelopes and address each envelope with a child's name that should open the envelope and share the message. As you enjoy your snack discuss, "What has been an important message that you have been entrusted to deliver?"

**READ THE BIBLE:** Read the Bible event from Matthew 9:37-10:28 where Jesus sends out His 12 disciples.

**KEY VERSE:** 2 Corinthians 5:20a: *"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us."*

**TALK ABOUT IT:** Jesus felt sorry for the crowds of people who were sick and hurting. He called His 12 disciples to help Him minister to these people. Jesus gave them the authority or power to do what? (*Matthew 10:1. To force evil spirits out of people and to cure disease and sickness.*) What was the message the disciples were to spread when they went out? (*Matthew 10:7. The kingdom of heaven is near. That means Jesus is our king who cares for us all!*) What are some powerful things that Jesus gave them the authority to do? (*Matthew 10:8. Cure the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse those with skin diseases, force demons out of people.*) Will everyone be happy to receive the followers who come in Jesus' name? (*Matthew 10:22-23. Some will hate them and persecute them.*) Why shouldn't Jesus' followers be afraid of people who can kill the body? (*Matthew 10:28,30,31. Because they can't kill the soul. Jesus tells them the Father will take care of them.*)

How are we like the disciples? Jesus gives us His authority to do what kinds of things in His name? (*we follow Jesus, love others, sharing His good news with them; we also can speak His forgiveness to others*)

**PRAYER:** Close with prayer, giving thanks for opportunities to represent the King and the courage to do so.

## Family Time Option

*One day this week, try...*

God calls your family to share your faith with others. Can you think of three people? How do you think you should share your faith? Will it be through acts of friendship and service, then by words? Will it mean inviting them to church or a special event for the kids? Discuss and make a plan.