

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of March 8th, 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: **Parents of Young Children!***

Should I do any positive reinforcement? Let your children know that you noticed how well they participated in church this morning. Do not only emphasize the negative things they do. Thank them for their good behavior and participation immediately after the service.

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

Workplace Ideas – Invite Your Coworkers to Serve – For many of us, serving is something we already do, and in many different ways and places. Invite a coworker to come and serve alongside you. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know them, to learn from one another, to love your neighbor, and more!

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 11-17! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Romans 5:8 – "but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

-Hymn: *May God Bestow on Us His Grace* [LSB 823/824](#), also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 95

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer, Fifth Petition on pg. 21. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Apostles' Creed, First Article (Part 3) pg. 156-163.

-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: How long can you hold your arms straight out from your side before they become too heavy to hold up? Discuss which burdens in life seem to pull you down.

In contrast, stand with your side to the wall and your hands at your sides. Push your arm away from your body so the back of your hand is pushing on the wall. Hold for 40 seconds. Step away from the wall and rest with your arms at your sides again. Your arm will try to float upward on its own! Discuss what lifts you up when carrying any heavy burdens in life.

READ THE BIBLE: See how the King's burden is light as found in Matthew 11:25-30 and Matthew 23:1-8.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 11:28: *"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

TALK ABOUT IT: How did Jesus describe the Pharisees' teachings? (*Matthew 23:4. Their loads were too hard to carry.*) If people were tired of carrying such heavy loads, where could they go to get rest? (*Read Matthew 11:28 to see what Jesus said. "Come to Me... and I will give you rest."*) Is Jesus' burden heavy or light? (*Matthew 11:30. "My burden is light."*)

When Jesus said that He thanked God for hiding these things from wise and intelligent people, whom do you think He meant? (*Religious leaders or people who taught that you have to do more religious things to earn heaven.*) When Jesus thanked God in Matthew 11:25 for revealing these things to the little children, what kind of people was He referring to? (*Children and people with child-like faith who would receive the gift of what Jesus has done.*)

PRAYER: Pray to surrender to God the burdens your family mentioned earlier. Thank Jesus for giving His life so all our failures can be taken away. Pray for other people who have burdens that need to be surrendered to God.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Encourage family members to find time to ask one another about what they can be praying for the other person. As they pray for each other, they are helping to lift the burden and reminding one another that we should bring our burdens to Jesus.