

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of May 31st, 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 with Older Children!*

What kinds of snacks are okay for church? Dry snacks can help an infant or toddler make it through the sermon but try to choose snacks that are easy to vacuum if crushed. Raisins stain clothes and carpeting when someone steps on them or sits on them. Drink boxes work better as an after church enjoyment as sticky spills cause problems for others. Water is the best drink once an infant is no longer fed by bottle or nursing.

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

Say Thanks: Ask yourself, "Who are the people in my life that the Lord uses to sustain my life, protect my life, or make my life easier that do not get much credit?" After identifying write a note, make a phone call, or talk in person showing your thankfulness and then repeat, repeat, repeat! Maybe say something like, "The Lord is using you to help me and so many others – Thank you for all you do!"

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 1 Samuel 29-31 and Song of Solomon 1-4! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Matthew 28:19-20 – “¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

-Hymn: *Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest* LSB 498/499, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 8

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on The Lord's Prayer, Third and Fourth Petition, on pg. 20-21. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, pg. 258-263.

-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: Imagine that your neighbors had a serious sickness in their family and they were visiting the hospital continually for seven days. What could each member of your family do to help them during this time? In what ways could each member help share the good news of Jesus during this neighbor's time of need? Each person can share their ideas of what they would do and then share their ideas for what others might do.

READ THE BIBLE: In Acts 5:17-42, the apostles are imprisoned for their witness, freed miraculously and then boldly proclaim Jesus in front of the Jewish council.

KEY VERSE: Acts 5:32 "*And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.*"

TALK ABOUT IT: Why did the disciples get put in jail? (*The chief priest and the whole party of the Sadducees were jealous of what the apostles were doing. Teaching about Jesus was leading people away from their religion.*) How did the disciples get out of jail? (*An angel of the Lord opened the door and let them out.*) What did they do after they got out of jail? (*They went back to the temple and started to teach.*) Did they all stick together as a team or was each apostle by himself? (*They were all together.*) What did the Jewish leaders do to the apostles when they heard them preaching again? (*They brought them to stand before the council.*) What did Peter and his team say to the Jewish leaders? (*They must obey God rather than men and that they were witnesses.*)

What do you think the apostles felt when they were first thrown in jail? What do you think they felt when they were let out of jail by an angel? Do you think they wanted to give up? Or were they scared to talk about Jesus after they were let out of jail?

Where do you think their strength to give Jesus to others came from? Read Acts 5:32. Point out that it is not just the group that gives them strength but it is being filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us power and then He encourages us to work together with other believers to share the good news!

PRAYER: Have each person think of someone he might have a chance to give Jesus to or witness to in this world. Then have everyone think about and pray for some special friends to team up with so they can team up and not give up—no matter what!

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Begin a prayer list for people within your friendship circles who don't know Jesus. These people can be prayed for regularly during family devotions. As you pray for them, consider ways that you might invite them to trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. What ways might your family find to help them and bless them in coming to know Jesus?