

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of July 19th, 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: **All Parents!***

Give the reason why: As your child is old enough to understand, give them knowledge to take ownership of their behavior. Their understanding should grow beyond "I don't do that because Dad and Mom said so", to truly understanding why. Example: If a younger child is running at the Lent supper at Church, explain that people are carrying plates or drinks and they could cause an accident.

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

Earn the right to be heard: The song "And they will know we are Christians by our love" applies here! Live a life of going the extra step, putting others first, being generous, and making self-sacrifices to help others. Live a life that makes people finally have to ask the question –why do you go out of your way for me? Right there – share your faith and how it motivates you! Show people you care about them and are not just interested in getting them to church.

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 2 Samuel 22-24 and Isaiah 1-4! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Romans 8:34 (Challenge! 8:31-39, some of the most comforting words in all of Scripture)
– Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the One who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

-Hymn: *God's Own Child I Gladly Say It* LSB 594, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 125

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on What is the Sacrament of the Altar and Where is this written, on pg. 28. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Blessings of Baptism, pg. 292-296.

-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: Invite everyone to find one object that demonstrates something that he has won. This might be a trophy, a diploma, a ball, or any object that reminds that person of a way in which he has accomplished something significant. Have everyone tell about his victory and how it made him feel. For this God Talk, we will emphasize that God always wins. And, through His victory on the cross, He has invited us to share that victory with Him!

READ THE BIBLE: From a story Bible read about the 10 plagues God sent to Egypt as found in Exodus 7-11.

KEY VERSE: Revelation 17:14: *“They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful.”*

TALK ABOUT IT: Name as many of the 10 plagues as you can. Read Exodus 12:12. God speaks of His plagues on Egypt as punishing their gods. Many things can take the place of God in our lives. Our false gods do not usually go by the name of “gods,” but anything we make more important than God is an idol. What are some things we are tempted to make more important than God? (*Money, fun, being popular, freedom, health, other people, etc.*)

In the Bible we see how Pharaoh had a hard heart, how he was stubborn and would not listen to God. What are things we do that show we are stubborn and do not want to follow God completely? God broke the power of Egypt and the gods of Egypt were discredited, and our God was shown to be the only true God (*see Exodus 7:5*). God always wins. Who does the Bible say is Lord of lord and King of kings? Whose side do you want to be on? Thanks be to Jesus, because in Him, you are on God’s side!

Prayer: Praise God that He is Lord of lords and King of kings and is victorious over evil! Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remain soft-hearted, to keep you from stubbornly holding on to your own plans instead of His.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Boil an egg as you talk about being hard-hearted. Place it in a jar of vinegar and set it in a place where all can see. You might even taste the vinegar. Yuck! If we refuse God’s love and live sour and ‘yucky’ lives, our hearts will harden more and more toward God. After three days, remove the egg. See how it is hardened into a rubbery egg. It’s not good for eating anymore...only for bouncing! (*Watch out, it will still break when bounced too hard!*)