

## **Faith at Home Corner** - *For the week of September 6<sup>th</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: **Parents with Children!***

**Look it over beforehand!** With a child who can read, go over the worship folder together before the service starts (it's also online!). If there are new or difficult words, help them pronounce them and teach them what they mean. This also helps your child know the responses they will be speaking ahead of time. They might even ask you questions about what things mean! If you don't know, ask the closest usher, elder, or pastor!

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

**Focus on Them:** Too often you worry about yourself and what will happen to you if you witness. The better question is what will happen to them if you do not? Evangelism is not easy and does cause anxiety for many, but do not let that anxiety restrain you. Tell them what they need to hear out of deep concern for their spiritual and everlasting welfare. Let love for them drive you through your anxiety and cause you to speak. Allow love to help you care more about them than you do about you. "Perfect love casts out fear...we love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:18,19)

**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 Isaiah 47-53! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Matthew 18:21-22 – <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came up and said to Him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."

-Hymn: *Come Down, O Love Divine*      LSB 501, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 103

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the What the Hearers owe their Pastors, on pg. 33-34. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Power of the Sacrament of the Altar, pg. 335-337.

-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:** Give each family member a nickel and challenge him to make it stand on its side. (You will need a flat surface to do this.) Then see how far they can move away from the nickel and blow it over. Afterwards, have each person tell about a time he felt some of the forces or pressures around him trying to push him over. This could be a person, like a bully, or a tough circumstance.

**READ THE BIBLE:** Read about the 12 spies sent to check out the Promised Land as recorded in Numbers 13 and 14.

**KEY VERSE:** John 16:33b: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

**TALK ABOUT IT:** What was the 12 spies' mission? (Numbers 13:17-20. To check out the land.) How many spies gave a bad report? (10) What were they afraid of? (Numbers 13:27-32. The people were too strong and too big.) Why do you think Caleb and Joshua thought the people of Israel could take the land? (Numbers 14:7-9. They believed the Lord was with them and He was more powerful than the Canaanites. They had seen and remembered the wonderful miracles God had done for His people in the past. They had faith that God would take care of them.) How did the people rebel against God? (Numbers 14:1-4. They whined and complained about God and would not follow Joshua and Caleb.) What was their punishment? (Numbers 14:26-35. They would not get to see the Promised Land and they would die in the desert.) Who got into the Promised Land? (Numbers 14:29-31. Joshua and Caleb and those younger than 20 years of age.)

God has a new Promised Land for all of us! Ask your family: "What risks have you taken out of love for God and for your neighbors? How can God, your family, and your Christian friends give you the courage to take that risk to do the right thing when it isn't popular or to share the gospel with a friend?" Jesus said He has won for us a Promised Land. "Take heart; I have overcome the world." Jesus beat our enemies, which are sin, death, and the power of the devil, when He came and gave His life on the cross. When we believe that, even when there are big things that bully us around, we can think about Jesus. He tells us to trust in Him. Jesus has told us that He is preparing a place for us to live with Him forever, where there will be no more sadness, or fear, or dying. It's a Promised Land filled with His joy and love."

Tell the family you know how to set a nickel on its edge so it cannot be blown over. Place a quarter lying flat on the table and lean the nickel on it so only the edge of the nickel touches the table and the rest of it leans on the quarter. Now the nickel can't be blown over even though only its edge is touching the table. Explain that we are like this nickel when we trust God. We rest on His promises and can't be easily blown over.

**PRAYER:** Pray for each other and the areas that each feels overwhelmed with life's circumstances. Pray that God will help you trust that He has already won the victory and that He will guide you to His Promised Land.

## Family Time Option

*One day this week, try...*

Show the nickel devotion trick to others outside your family. Explain how, when we rest on God, we can't be blown over.