

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of September 13th, 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 Young Children!***

Is it okay for my child to sleep during church? It is okay for young children to nod off during church, but older children (5+) should be able to stay awake throughout the service. If they can stay awake during a movie, they can stay awake in worship. It helps if everyone gets to bed early enough the night before.

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

Reasons To Believe: It is only through faith and the Holy Spirit that we come to belief in Christ our Savior! However, for some faith and facts are mutually exclusive. These people may benefit from hearing that faith in God is not without historical facts that are trustworthy. This could even help "prepare the way" for them to hear the Gospel of salvation found in Christ alone! If you know a person like this, feel free to ask one of our pastors about some good resources you can use as a way to start the conversation.

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 54-60! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Philippians 1:21 (Challenge! Add v. 22-24) – ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

-Hymn: *Salvation Unto Us Has Come* LSB 555, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 51

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Of Civil Government, on pg. 34. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – How to Receive this Sacrament Worthily, pg. 338-345.

-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: A whine is a complaint that sounds irritating on other people's ears. Make a family list of the top five whines heard in your house. These can be whines from adults and kids alike. Encourage all to admit their whining and recognize how negative it may sound to those who hear it.

READ THE BIBLE: Read about the bronze serpent from Numbers 21:4-9.

KEY VERSES: John 3:14-15, about Jesus: ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

TALK ABOUT IT: Why did the Israelites complain? (Numbers 21:5. They were tired of manna.) What happened when they complained? (Numbers 21:6. God sent a plague of snakes to bite them. They became sick and some died.) Why did God save them? (Numbers 21:7-8. The people admitted they had sinned and asked Moses to pray for them.) What did the people have to do to be saved? (Numbers 21:9. They had to look up at the bronze snake Moses made and put on a pole.) Why was God so angry with the people and their complaining? (Because complaining against Moses was like complaining against God. They were forgetting to be thankful for all God had provided for them.) Why does God want us to be thankful? (Because He wants us to remember that He provides us with all we need.) What is the best gift God could give us? (The gift of His Son Jesus. Because of Him, we have everlasting life in Paradise.)

PRAYER: Pray to be thankful instead of whining, because whining is complaining against God. Pray that the cross would be a reminder of how much Jesus did for us. He gives us everlasting life when we look to Him and believe in Him, and for that we can be most thankful.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Remember the top whines in your house? Now make a list of the top 10 blessings you have received as a family. Keep this list handy so that through the week it can be given to any family member who is whining and needs help remembering to be thankful.