

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of September 20th, 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: **Everyone!***

How should my child dress for church? How should I? Dress nicely for church! It lets your child know that they are going someplace of great importance. They are going to God's house!

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

Highlight One Person: Pick one person in your life that you have a consistent and meaningful connection to who needs to know the Lord or know Him more. When you think of that person or are with the person reflect on reasons why it is so important for you to speak up. Reflect on the reasons why God has made you the right person to do so. Reflect on the ways that you can easily bring up Christ in your relationship with that person. Reflect, pray, and then speak! Keep track of your conversations, thoughts, and their responses in a journal and keep praying!

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 61-66 and 1 Peter 1! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Ezekiel 18:32 – "For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord Yahweh; so turn, and live."

-Hymn: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing** LSB 922, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#) (subbed in for 655 *Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*, which appears as the hymn of the week more than once)

-Psalm: 57

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Of Citizens, on pg. 34-35. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – Daily Prayer and Table of Duties, pg. 346-350.

-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: Take a newspaper and ask, “Is everything you read in the newspaper true? If not, what do you think might not be true?” Point out the horoscope section and note that these forecasts are not true. The Bible even warns us in Deuteronomy 18:14 against seeking such advice. What other lies might we hear today about spiritual things?

READ THE BIBLE: The entire Bible event is found in Numbers 22-25. Read about Balaam’s talking donkey in Numbers 22:21-38.

KEY VERSE: 2 Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

TALK ABOUT IT: Review the Bible event. Balaam was known for his spiritual powers, even if he did not follow the true God. What did King Balak want Balaam to do for him? (Numbers 22:6. Put a curse on the Israelites so King Balak could defeat them in battle.) Why did Balaam’s donkey stop in the middle of the road? (Numbers 22:23. The donkey saw an angel with a drawn sword in the middle of the road.) When Balaam saw the angel of Yahweh, what did the angel tell him? (Numbers 22:35. “Go with the men (to King Balak), but speak only the word that I tell you.”) Instead of speaking curses on the people of Israel, what did Balaam say? (Numbers 23:8. He blessed the Israelites.) Why was it so important for Balaam to speak only God’s truth? (Because there is power in speaking curses or blessings. God wants us to obey Him.) Kids need to know there are many false messages in their culture that tell them that which is not true. The donkey directed Balaam’s attention to the Lord. Who are some “donkeys” in your life? Who are some people who direct you to the Lord? Do you ever direct others to the Lord?

PRAYER: Close with prayer against the lies that try to take away from God’s truth. Pray for God’s protection against these lies and for the courage to speak God’s truth. Thank God for sending Jesus, our Rescuer. He gave His life for us so we can be children of God and know the truth. Jesus is the truth we can tell others!

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Designate one verse from the Bible as the family verse for the week. Have the kids write it on a card and post it on the refrigerator. See who can memorize it throughout the week. Try this for several weeks and see if your family will pick it up as a good habit. With God’s truth memorized, tell it to others!