

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of September 27th, 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!***

Be on time! An old football coach once told me, "To be on time means to be five minutes early."

Arriving beforehand gives you the opportunity to go over the service with your child. It also helps your child understand how important it is to be in worship.

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

Start Now: Time is short. The Lord could come back right now. Death can happen to anyone at any moment. As Christians we need to start our outreach now. Start praying for the person today. Start looking for opportunities to talk to them about Christ right now. Do not live an "I'll do it tomorrow" life. As Christians we live for and speak of Christ in the present, right now. Do not wait to use past or future outreach examples, start using them today; and, as you do, know that the Lord goes with you and speaks through you!

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 Peter 2-5 and 2 Peter 1-3! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Philippians 3:8 – "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ."

-Hymn: *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* LSB 544, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 144

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the To Husbands, To Wives, on pg. 35. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – Who is Jesus?, pg. 351-353.

-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 some playdoh and form a small ball or “rock.” Use a small cross to make an impression in the doh. If you don’t have a small cross, find something small and thin (like a pencil) and press it into the doh twice to make a cross. You can choose to let this playdoh dry and stiffen to be a “memory rock.” Have family members share one way God has made an impression on them. It need not be a dramatic event; it could be as simple as a way He helps us with the needs of everyday life. Or it might be some dramatic way God helped them through a difficult time. It might be spiritual blessings such as the gift of salvation won by Jesus or the promise of being God’s child in baptism.

READ THE BIBLE: Read Joshua 3 and 4 about the Israelites crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

KEY VERSES: Joshua 4:23-24: ²³ For Yahweh your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as Yahweh your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up for us until we passed over, ²⁴ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of Yahweh is mighty, that you may fear Yahweh your God forever.”

TALK ABOUT IT: What did the priests carry in front of the people and into the river as a reminder of God’s presence? (Joshua 3:3-8. The ark of the covenant, which is the throne of God.) When did the waters part? (Joshua 3:15-16. As soon as the priest set foot in the water.) How many stones did the men Joshua chose take from the river to set aside as a monument? (Joshua 4:2-3. Twelve. They represented the 12 tribes of Israel.) Years later when people saw the stones that had been put together as a monument, how do you think it made them feel as they told their children about what had happened? Think about a trophy or medal in your room that represents a memory of something special. How is that like the Israelites’ pile of 12 rocks? These rocks were placed as a memorial to show how God had once again delivered His people. How has God delivered you and your family? And what has He delivered you from?

PRAYER: Thank God for His mighty ways in delivering His people. Ask Him to use your “memory rock” to remind you to share the impression God has made on you to other people.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Let all family members make a memory rock using clay or playdoh. This memory rock is for you to remember what God has done for you and to tell it to others!