

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of October 18th, 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!***

Hug your children: Hugging is all natural, no preservatives, or artificial ingredients, and it is 100% wholesome. It has no unpleasant side effects.

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

A Simple Invite: Research shows that the most effective way of getting people through the doors of a church is a simple invitation from someone they know. This week's simple idea is simply to invite someone. Try this – “Hi Joe! Hey I would like to take you with me to church this weekend and then after we can go for brunch – my treat.” Sometimes the reason someone does not go is because they have simply never been invited – at St. Matthew let us change that! Start seeing the people God places in your life and simply extend the invitation.

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>

-Daily Scripture Readings: Let's read Hosea 5-11! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Romans 3:22b-24 – “For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

-Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* LSB 656/657, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 5

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the To Youth, To Widows, To Everyone, on pg. 36. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – Luther's Preface, pg. 363-367.

-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: Have family members share one small challenge they faced today. After all have shared an event, ask who remembered to pray about it as it happened. Why or why not?

READ THE BIBLE: Read how Joshua is tricked by strangers from Joshua 9:3-27.

KEY VERSE: Philippians 4:6: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*

TALK ABOUT IT: What had God told Joshua to do with the people of the land when the Israelites moved in? (*Joshua 9:24. Drive them out and destroy them.*) Why do you think God told him to do this? (*Because they worshiped false gods and would lead the Israelites to worship false gods.*) How did the strangers from Gibeon disguise themselves? Why? (*Joshua 9:3-5. They put worn-out sacks on their donkeys, used old wineskins that were split and patched, and wore old sandals and tattered clothes. They wanted to trick the Israelites into thinking that they had come from a long way away.*) What did Joshua fail to do in making his decision? (*Joshua 9:14-15. He didn't ask the Lord's guidance.*) What do you think the Israelites learned from this event? (*They learned how important it was to ask God for His guidance even in the things that seem so simple.*)

Talk with the family about how to hear advice from God. Point out that God's main way of giving advice is through the Bible. When we trust in Jesus we also have the Holy Spirit to help us with the decisions we need to make in our lives. He wants us to talk to Him about everyday situations and trust that He can lead us.

PRAYER: Have family members think of as many everyday events and decisions as they can and ask God to lead us to serve Him and our neighbors.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Look at the family calendar for the month. Make a list of the simple events happening in the next week or so. Pass the list around letting each person pray for several things on the list. Remember to talk to God, even about little things.