

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of November 22nd, 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 of Young Children!*

Sign language: To help prevent whining and to facilitate verbal skills, you can start as early as 8 months of age to teach your infant how to communicate through sign language. Simple sign language phrases "please", "thank you", "no thank you", "more food", and "all done". This is a great way to communicate during worship, too!

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

Thanksgiving: Just think what it would be like to spend Thanksgiving alone... Now think of a person in your life for whom this is the likely reality (college student, single neighbor, widow, friend...) This Thanksgiving invite them and pick them up to be part of your Thanksgiving festivities. Invite them and bring them with you to Thanksgiving services at St. Matthew and then invite them and bring them home with you to your family meal. Be the family they need and miss!

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 Exodus 1-7! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Isaiah 64:8 – “But now, O Yahweh, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand.”

-Hymn: *Savior of the Nations, Come* LSB 332, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 80

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the 1st and 2nd Commandments, on pg. 13. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – Introduction to the Explanation, pg. 43-51.

-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: Grab some popcorn kernels. These are to be placed on the spoon of every family member at dinnertime. Ask each family member to thank God for one thing as they put the popcorn seed in a special blessing pile in the middle of the table. Your child also might share the Thanksgiving story of how the pilgrims were thankful to God and had a Thanksgiving feast with the Native Americans.

READ THE BIBLE: Psalm 103.

KEY VERSE: Psalm 107:1 “*Oh give thanks to Yahweh, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!*”

TALK ABOUT IT: Read Psalm 107:1 and ask: Why are we supposed to give thanks to God? (*Because He is good and His mercy endures forever.*) What does it mean, “His mercy endures forever?” (*Mercy means that someone is kind to another who doesn’t deserve it. We deserve punishment for our sin, but God shows us kindness instead by forgiving our sins in Jesus’ death on the cross. This kindness lasts forever, because we get to be with Him in Paradise, forever.*) What blessings can you think of that last forever? (*A new heaven and a new earth, love of God, forgiveness, peace, being with your loved ones forever, etc.*) When is the hardest time for you to give thanks? When is the easiest time to give thanks?

Review your reading from Psalm 103 and talk about blessings that last forever.

PRAYER: Give thanks for both physical and spiritual blessings. Help your children see the importance of thanking God, who gives all blessings to them, as opposed to just feeling grateful. Also, encourage them to think of the things they could be thankful for even if they were going through a hard time.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

As a family, ask how you might think of others and serve them. This would be a wonderful way to express your thanksgiving to God. You might contribute to a local food pantry for the hungry or volunteer serving a Thanksgiving dinner. Perhaps you would like to bake pies or cookies, or maybe an entire meal and then deliver it to an elderly shut-in. What ideas can you come up with?