

## **Faith at Home Corner** - *For the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021*

*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 Younger Children!***

**Use the tools we provide!** If your child likes books, check out the children's library before the service (there are also some books in the cry room). There are Bible stories, prayer books, etc. Just be sure to return them when you've finished so other families can use them as well!

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

**Send A Card:** We all know someone who could use encouragement, an invitation to talk, or know someone cares. Sending a card is good! Adding a personal note is even better! Use these three thoughts from Stephen Ministry when writing: Focus on the person – a helpful message will be filled with “you” or “your;” Write with your love for them – imagine they are right there: what does your compassion tell you to say; Christ is the Cure-giver – As a caregiver, the best thing you can do is connect a person with their ultimate Cure-giver! Best thing about a card, they can save it and let it touch their lives more than once!

**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 36-40 and Haggai! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Romans 6:11 (Challenge! 6:1-11 or as much of it as you can) – “So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

-Hymn: *To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord*                      [LSB 406/407](#), also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 77

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Apostles' Creed: First Article, on pg. 16. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Fifth Commandment and its meaning, pg. 85-92.

-Devotions resources: grab a copy of *Portals of Prayer* at church or subscribe to daily email devotions from [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org), [www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://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 each family member tell about a leader that people follow at their school, work, or home. What are some of the things that they do or say that make them a good leader and easy to follow? *Option:* Serve a special dessert or snack that relates to fishing... gummy worms, goldfish crackers, etc. It will tie into the Bible reading.

**READ THE BIBLE:** Read about the calling of the first disciples from Mark 1:14-20.

**KEY VERSE:** Mark 1:17 *“And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”*”

**TALK ABOUT IT:** Where was Jesus when He told Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow Him? (*Mark 1:16. Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee where they were fishing.*) What was the message Jesus was preaching? (*Mark 1:14. Repent, the Kingdom of God is near.*) What did Jesus tell them would happen if they followed Him? What would they be fishing for? (*Mark 1:17. They would be fishers of men.*) How long did it take for the disciples to leave their nets and follow Jesus? (*Mark 1:18 & 20. They left immediately.*) What do you think it was about Jesus that convinced these fishermen to leave their nets and follow Him? (*It's hard to know for sure. One likely answer is that Jesus had a powerful message and spoke in such a way that people wanted to follow Him when He called them. It could simply be that the Holy Spirit worked.*) What does following Jesus today look like? (*Love God and love your neighbor. We live a life that honors God. Serve others. Show God's love and tell others about Jesus.*) Will you drop whatever you are doing and follow Jesus immediately?

**PRAYER:** Pray for certain individuals who need special amounts of Jesus' love. Pray to better follow Jesus every day and become fishers of men.

## Family Time Option

*One day this week, try...*

Draw fish symbols on Post-it notes. Post them at various places around the house to remind family members that they are following Jesus in their daily activities. For example, one posted on the TV remote control reminds them that if they follow Jesus, watching certain shows would not be pleasing to him. Posting one by the toys might remind the kids that following Him means sharing their toys.