

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of January 24th, 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 Young Children!***

Prepare at home: Work on regular parts of the service at home with your children. Even a preschool child can memorize the Lord's Prayer if you are praying it every night! Work on memorizing the Creeds, the Benediction, the sung responses, or other things you see regularly.

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

Welcome New Neighbors: For sale sign goes up – and we wonder: who will I have as a neighbor? Remember your new neighbors may be concerned about meeting you! Make them excited to be your neighbor. Help them move in. Ask what their favorite meal is and make it for them. Welcome, care, and help. Plus – if you moved away from St. Matthew, think how you would be in need of finding a new church to hear God's Word. Maybe that is your neighbor! Invite them with you one Sunday and show them a caring, Christ-centered congregation. If they say no, do not change but continue to be that neighbor they are glad to have.

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 Mark 15-16 and Numbers 1-5! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 1 Corinthians 8:6 – “yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

-Hymn: *Amazing Grace* LSB 744, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 137

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Ten Commandments: 1-5, on pg. 13-14. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Eighth Commandment and its meaning, pg. 110-114.

-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: Prepare a mystery box. Put inside it: a candle, matches and enough treats (such as candies) for everyone but yourself. Say, "This treasure contains a message that is a secret of being happy and content. Who can look at these things and guess the secret?" Light the candle and pass out the treats. Discuss. Then reveal that the secret is giving to others rather than only thinking about what you get. (Point out that with one treat missing, you didn't get one. Instead, you gave away the treats.) Jesus came as a light into this world to give Himself to us. Because of that we too can be like light and give ourselves to others.

READ THE BIBLE: Read John 8:12, Mark 4:21-22, and Matthew 5:14-16.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 5:16, *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

TALK ABOUT IT: Who claims to be the light of the world? (*Jesus.*) What will we have if we follow Him? (*A life filled with light.*) What is "a light" intended to do? (*Lighten up the room, let other people see, help us see where we are going.*) What is darkness in our world? (*Bad things, sin, evil.*) How is Jesus a light to the world? (*He gave Himself to die for our sin and the sins of the world. He shows us the way to live with Him forever.*) What are other ways Jesus gave Himself to others? (*He served them, healed them, taught them, and helped them.*) How can we be lights to the world or give Jesus to others?

PRAYER: Thank God for sending His Son Jesus to be the light of the world. Pray for God's power to give of yourselves so others see Christ, the "light to the world," in you. Pray for specific ways to let your light shine.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

During dinner when everyone is together, light a candle and discuss how well your family is "lighting up" your neighborhood. Brainstorm ways that you can better share the light of Jesus with others who live around you.