

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of January 31st, 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: **Everyone!***

Why do we sing hymns? Hymns are full of well-thought prayers, songs of praise, and wonderful teaching that points us to Jesus! The wording sometimes is a little strange as they try to fit it to the tune, like a poem trying to rhyme. Read today's hymns with your child. Talk about what they mean. Ask your pastor to share next week's hymns with you that you may sing them together at home throughout the week. Even pray the hymns together. This will make singing the hymn later all the more meaningful and powerful.

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

Stock the Libraries: Driving around one day my wife made the comment "Those front yard libraries are everywhere now!" With that comment came an idea, why not stock those libraries with Christian literature? Next time you pass one by place a Portals of Prayer, advent devotion, copy of a Bible, or other Christian resource that you enjoy in there – who knows who will pick it up! In the front cover write a note, a prayer, and place information on St. Matthew in case the reader needs a caring congregation. Bring Christ to the Little Free Libraries, you never know where that will take Him!

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 Numbers 6-12! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 1 Corinthians 9:25 – "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable."

-Hymn: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* LSB 398, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 73

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Ten Commandments: 6-10, on pg. 14-15. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Ninth Commandment and its meaning, pg. 115-119.

-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: If you have a glow in the dark cross, bring it out (otherwise, try using a flashlight with a regular cross). Turn the lights off and see how well it glows. Then have every family member share a time when they were scared. How is the following statement true? "Jesus is the one truth that always glows in the dark."

READ THE BIBLE: Read about Jesus walking on the water as found in Mark 6:45-56.

KEY VERSE: Mark 6:50, *"For they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."*

TALK ABOUT IT: What kind of danger were the disciples in? (*Mark 6:48. They were rowing their boat during a storm in the middle of the night.*) When Jesus came walking out to them, what did they think He was and how did they react? (*Mark 6:49-50. They screamed because they thought He was a ghost, and were terrified*) What did Jesus say to them to calm them? (*Mark 6:50. He told them who He was.*) What happened when Jesus then climbed into the boat? (*Mark 6:51. The wind calmed down and they were amazed.*) Sometimes we forget that Jesus is real and He wants to be our rescuer, just like the disciples forgot. How do we act when we forget? (*Scared. Want to panic. Overwhelmed by our lives. Etc.*) When we are scared we need to remember that **Jesus is the rescuer and He is real!*

PRAYER: After each family member has named his/her fear in prayer, have them repeat the take-home point: **Jesus is my Rescuer and He is real!* Close by thanking God that He is faithful to keep His promises.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Every person in the family faces challenges throughout the week. During family devotions, make a prayer list so that family members can pray for one another's special challenges. Remind each other that Jesus is real and He does rescue us!