

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

Teach your children that “going to church” is where they get to be with Jesus. Children think in literal, concrete terms. “Going to church” can sometimes sound like it is only about a building. “We’re going to church to hear God’s Word and receive forgiveness from Jesus” is more specific, more concrete, and helpful in teaching your children what the church is all about.

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

Tell Yourself First: The song “I love to tell the Story” is a classic. It is the story of Jesus and His glory of Jesus and His love. Have you told yourself that? Can you articulate to yourself, through your own life, how Jesus and His love forgave, saved, and changed you? Before you can ever tell someone else you first must tell yourself and delight in His love! Then you can bless your family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and others with how Christ’s love changed your life and can change theirs as well, eternally!

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 1 Kings 4-10! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 1 John 3:16 – “¹⁶By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”

-Hymn: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* LSB 709, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 11

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on Baptism, Part 1, on pg. 23. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Third Article (Part 3), pg. 222-230.

-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: Each person share: “A special vacation place that I’ve never visited but would like to is...” Our reading today tells us how Jesus went to a very special place—heaven. When our time serving God in this world is over, we will be able to go there with Him, also, until He welcomes us into His Paradise. What do you think it will be like?

READ THE BIBLE: Acts 1:3-11. The ascension of Jesus.

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 1:20b, “(God) raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”

TALK ABOUT IT: How many days after Jesus’ death and resurrection did He show Himself to His followers? (*Acts 1:3. For forty days He appeared to them and talked with them.*) Why did Jesus tell the disciples to wait in Jerusalem? (*Acts 1:4-5. They were to wait to receive what the Father had promised, the Holy Spirit.*) What were the disciples to do after they received power from the Holy Spirit? (*Acts 1:8. They were to be witnesses for Jesus to the ends of the earth.*) Describe how Jesus ascended into heaven. (*Acts 1:9-10. A cloud hid Jesus as He was taken into heaven. Two men in white clothes (angels) appeared.*) How does this passage say Jesus will return someday? (*Acts 1:11. The same way they saw Him go into heaven, appearing in the clouds.*) According to the key verse, where is Jesus now? (*In heaven.*) How do you know this? (*God’s Word says so in these passages.*) How does this make you feel knowing that *Jesus is Lord of heaven* and He gives us the same power He gave His disciples? What are you to do with this power? (*Testify or witness about Jesus just as Jesus commanded His disciples.*)

PRAYER: Praise God that Jesus is now ruling in heaven! Pray for other friends or family members that do not know Jesus as the Lord of heaven.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Talking about heaven can be a sensitive subject for children. Some may become afraid of dying and leaving their family. Others may simply believe they can go and visit heaven. In talking with your children about this topic, be sure to mention that God has a purpose for all of us here on earth, that we would love Him and love our neighbor. It’s in His control when our lives will be finished here and when our life in Paradise begins. It is not something we should worry about. Someday our families can be together forever in Paradise if we all trust in Jesus as our Savior!