

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of April 25th, 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!***

Model reverent participation for your children. Children learn by observing their parents. If parents display reverent (respectful, God-fearing) behavior during the Divine Service, their children will, over time, absorb that behavior, then mimic it, and then make it their own.

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

"Pick 'Em Up:" If you have a car, come to church, and have room for others you are perfect for this important task. We have a number of shut-ins and older members that enjoy coming to St. Matthew for worship and Christian community but they cannot drive. They want to come let us help them get here. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping with this important ministry. Simply, "Pick 'Em up!"

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 11-17! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 1 John 4:1 – "1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.."

-Hymn: *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* LSB 633, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 150

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on Baptism, Part 2, on pg. 23-24. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Lord's Prayer, pg. 231-236.

-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: Amaze the kids by pointing a handheld hair dryer straight up and then balance a ping-pong ball on the top of the air current. *(Other options: substitute a feather or small piece of tissue.)* Discuss how the air is an invisible force and is pretty amazing. Much more amazing is the invisible force of God's Holy Spirit who lives inside us when we trust Jesus. What amazing things do you think He will help you do? *(Trust God, witness, demonstrate God's love to others.)*

READ THE BIBLE: Acts 2:1-41

KEY VERSE: Acts 1:8, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

TALK ABOUT IT: On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' followers were all together. What suddenly happened that was out of the ordinary? *(Acts 2:1-3. There was a sound like a blowing wind and there were tongues that looked like fire that came to rest on each believer.)* What impossible thing happened when the tongues of fire came to rest on each believer? *(Acts 2:4. They began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.)* Why do you think it was important for the disciples to be able to speak in different languages? *(It showed God's power, but it also showed that God wanted the message to go to all different kinds of people. "You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem....and to the end of the earth." - Acts 1:8)* Why do you think the people who saw the believers were so surprised? *(Because the disciples were ordinary men and didn't know these languages. People were gathered from all over the world, and everyone heard the gospel preached in his own language!)* Were the disciples bold and brave before this happened? *(No.)* What changed? *(The Holy Spirit filled them up and they became bold witnesses for Jesus.)* How do we receive the Holy Spirit? *(God gave us His Holy Spirit in our baptisms, and continues to work in us to strengthen our faith each day.)* What happens when we are filled with his Holy Spirit? *(We can tell others about Jesus and serve God the way Jesus did.)*

PRAYER: Have family members individually pray that the Holy Spirit would encourage them in their faith. Conclude by thanking God for giving the gift of the Holy Spirit and giving us the power to continue the ministry of Jesus.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

On the first Pentecost, the disciples witnessed to people who spoke different languages. Who can you think of with a different nationality or culture to help in some way? Decide as a family what you might do for them.