

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of June 20th, 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!***

Offer to help young parents. Sit with them in their pew. Assist them in holding the hymnal for their children. Let the children sit on your lap. Sometimes, it helps parents to just have someone else as the other bookend in the pew so the children can't escape! And encourage the children to participate in the Divine Service.

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

Give a Gift – One easy gift for many of us to give is a little snack or treat. If you like baking, make something and take it to your neighbor (as you get to know them, you can do this even better by making something you know they really like!). It's a simple way to show you love and care for your neighbor, and to begin building a solid relationship with them, through which you can share Christ.

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 Job 1-7! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Lamentations 3:24 – "Yahweh is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him."

-Hymn: *Crown Him with Many Crowns* LSB 525, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 20

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on Confession, on pg. 25-27. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Lord's Prayer – Seventh Petition, pg. 274-278.

-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: A blessing is something good that God has given us or done for us. Have each family member share three blessings they are thankful for today!

READ THE BIBLE: Joshua 3:1-4:24

KEY VERSE: Psalm 103:2, *“Bless Yahweh, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”*

TALK ABOUT IT: What group of men went before the people in crossing the Jordan River? (*Joshua 3:6. The priests.*) What did they carry? (*Joshua 3:8. The ark of the covenant, which was the throne of God.*) What did the ark represent? (*Joshua 3:7. That the presence of the Lord was with the people.*) What happened to the Jordan River when the priests stepped into it? (*Joshua 3:15-17. The water stopped flowing from upstream and rose up like a dam so the people crossed on dry ground.*) Why did Joshua have 12 stones from the Jordan River set up? (See Joshua 4:23-24. To remind the people and their descendants that the Lord had dried up the Jordan River ahead of them so they could enter the Promised Land. Read Joshua 4:24!!! *The Lord did this so that everyone in the world would know His mighty power and that we would fear the Lord our God every day of our lives.*) Why do you think the priests who carried the ark of the promise stood in the middle of the Jordan until the whole nation had crossed? (*Maybe so that the people would see the ark as they passed by and knew God cared for and would be with every one of them.*) Why do you think Joshua had a man from each of the 12 tribes gather a rock from the middle of the Jordan in front of the ark of the Lord’s promise, instead of just collecting rocks from the edge? (*Maybe to remind the people that it was a mighty miracle that the Lord had done (remember the Jordan was at flood stage), and as a reminder of where the people had been.*) What is our Promised Land? (*Paradise, the new heaven and new earth God is creating for us.*) Who came into our presence to open the way for us to enter our Promised Land? (*Jesus.*) What did Jesus do so that we can enter the Promised Land? (*He gave His life for us.*)

PRAYER: Thank God for the good things He has given, but especially for the greatest gift of all: Jesus, who made the way for us to enter the Promised Land.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Keep a list of things your family is thankful for and post it on the refrigerator or public place. Add to it as the week continues. Discuss how doing this changes attitudes in the family.