

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of October 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!***

COLOR CHANGE: Notice that the different colors of the altar and the stoles (the sash that the pastors wear over their albs/robes) changed! The colors help us mark the time of the church year. **Red** is used on **Pentecost Sunday**. On this day we remember the power and fire of "the Lord and Giver of Life," who revealed Himself as the promised one. The color red communicates the motif of strength, which the Holy Spirit gives in order for God's people to call on the name of Jesus Christ and share that powerful name with others. Consequently, it serves well as the traditional color for the heroic martyrs of the church. The Lutheran Service Book church year calendar provides for sixteen martyr festivals. Their red blood shed in defense of the Gospel offers perpetual encouragement for God's people to be resolute in living the faith. **Additional uses of red are Reformation Sunday; Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14);** on such festive occasions as dedications, anniversaries of a congregation and its physical structure; and festive days celebrating the office of the public ministry, such as ordination and installation.

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

Host Parties – Whether it's a weekly barbecue potluck or an ice cream party, having the neighbors gather together is a great way to add to and build up your community. You can get to know your neighbors better and share the gospel with them as well!

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 Nehemiah 13 and Daniel 1-6! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Revelation 7:15-17, of the saints who have gone before us, and will thus one day be true of us, too – "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their Shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

-Hymn: *Lord of All Hopefulness*

LSB 738, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 52

- Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on Christian Questions with Their Answers, 1-10, on pg. 37-38. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Time between the Testaments pg. 372-376.
- 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: When Solomon finished building the temple, he prayed and dedicated it to the Lord. Then God's glory, seen as a cloud as it is elsewhere, filled the temple. It was so awesome (fear-inspiring) that the priests couldn't enter it. Ask family members: where can we go today that the Lord promised He would be present with us?

READ THE BIBLE: In 1 Kings 6-8, Solomon builds the temple and dedicates it. God's glory fills the temple with a cloud as a sign of His presence.

KEY VERSE: Psalm 26:8 *"O Yahweh, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells."*

TALK ABOUT IT: How long did it take to build the temple? (*1 Kings 6:37. Seven years.*) There were two big rooms in the temple. What were they called? (*1 Kings 6:16. The Most Holy Place and the Holy Place.*) When the priests dedicated the temple, what happened? (*1 Kings 8:10. The glory of Yahweh filled the temple with cloud, one of the ways God appears to His people in the Old Testament.*)

Solomon's temple is no longer standing as a place where God's glory dwells. What temple does God live in today? (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Us, believers in Christ.*) What is the price for which our bodies were bought? (*The price was God's own Son, Jesus, who gave His life for us.*)

Jesus said about His body, "Destroy this temple (meaning His body), and in three days I will raise it up." Jesus knew He was going to die, but on the third day He would be raised up. He would rise from the dead so we could be forgiven and have Jesus live in our lives. Because of that, Jesus looks at us and says that we are a perfect place for His glory to dwell.

PRAYER: Thank God that because of Jesus we are made a place of God's dwelling. Ask the Lord to keep your bodies and lives a holy temple of God.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

The key to success for family devotions is to be intentional about doing them. Have a family meeting to discuss and write down your goals for drawing closer to God as a family.