

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of November 7th, 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. **White** is the color of purity and completeness and is used primarily during the **Sundays of the Easter season** to remind us that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before His Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. It is also used for the same message for festive Sundays: Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; **All-Saints' Day**; and seventeen minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in Lutheran Service Book.

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

Connect it to Christ – So many of our outreach tips involve how you can serve your neighbor and how you can build up your neighbor. And these are good things. But at some point or another, all of our relationships, all of our vocations, are an opportunity to speak of Christ and His love to the broken. This truly is easiest when your neighbor knows they're broken, as you can speak directly against the problem of sin with the message of hope, forgiveness, and life through Christ. It can be a little trickier when all seems well in their life. But you literally have nothing to lose! For as they stand there without the gospel, they're already lost. Share your hope!

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 Daniel 7-12 and Malachi 1! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Hebrews 10:24-25 – "24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

-Hymn: *The Day is Surely Drawing Near* LSB 508, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 53

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on Christian Questions with Their Answers, 11-20, on pg. 38-40. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Church Year, Terms Relating to Worship and God's House, pg. 377-386.

-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: Sprinkle pepper in a glass of water. Watch how it stays on top. Idolatry is like keeping other gods “on top” in our lives. These gods could be anything to give us ultimate fulfillment in life. What happens when we dip a toothpick in dishwashing soap and touch the middle of the water? How is that like what God does to all other idols that one might have?

READ THE BIBLE: 1 Kings 11:1-13, 29-40. Solomon is led to false idols through his many foreign wives and concubines.

KEY VERSE: Exodus 20:3, “*You shall have no other gods before Me.*”

TALK ABOUT IT: What did Solomon’s wives tempt him to do? (*1 Kings 11:4. Follow other gods.*) How did Solomon respond to these temptations? (*1 Kings 11:6-7. He did not wholeheartedly follow the Lord as his father David had done. He even built illegal worship sites for his wives to worship their other gods.*) What was God’s reaction to Solomon? (*1 Kings 11:9. God became angry.*) What did God decide to do? (*1 Kings 11:11. God said He would tear away part of the kingdom from Solomon and give it to one of his servants. Solomon’s son would have one tribe for the sake of David, Solomon’s father.*) What is the First Commandment? (*Exodus 20:3 – You shall have no other gods before Me.*) Solomon’s lack of faith at the end of his life may mean that he is lost.

Jesus came into the world so He could make known God’s heart. Jesus showed us how much God loves us by giving up His Son to die on the cross for us. Jesus told us He would be a light that lights up our lives. One of the most important ways we can always keep God on top is to trust Jesus as our Savior and to let His light shine through us.

PRAYER: Thank God that He loves so much that He sent Jesus for us and that He will come back for us again someday. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help us remember this so we will always want to **keep God on top.*

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

As a family, discuss: “Is there anything that keeps our family from praying to God, or reading His Word, or serving Him?” Then: “What can we do to remove that obstacle?”