

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of January 2nd, 2022*

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!***

Look it over beforehand! With a child who can read, go over the worship folder together before the service starts (it's also online!). If there are new or difficult words, help them pronounce them and teach them what they mean. This also helps your child know the responses they will be speaking ahead of time. They might even ask you questions about what things mean! If you don't know, ask the closest usher, elder, or pastor!

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

Eat with Non-Christians - We all eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing one of those meals with a non-Christian or with a family of non-Christians? Go to lunch with a co-worker, not by yourself. Invite the neighbors over for family dinner. If it's too much work to cook a big dinner, just order pizza and put the focus on conversation. When you go out for a meal invite others. Or take your family to family-style restaurants where you can sit at the table with strangers and strike up conversation. Cookout and invite Christians and non-Christians. In order to share the Gospel, we do need to step outside the Christian subculture.

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 Luke 4-10! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions you have!

-Memory verse: Isaiah 43:1 – "But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.'"

-Hymn: *To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord* LSB 406/407, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 29

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on The Apostles' Creed, on pg. 16. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Fifth Commandment, pg. 85-92.

-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: Discuss: “If God asked you to give something to Him, what would be the hardest thing to give up?”

Optional: Give family members a piece of paper and ask them to make a star. Then they can record their answers to the question inside the star. It will remind them that Jesus is Lord over all that we have.

READ THE BIBLE: Matthew 2:1-12

KEY VERSE: Matthew 2:11. *“And going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”*

TALK ABOUT IT: What led the Magi from the east to Jerusalem? (*Matthew 2:2. They were looking for the one who was born to be the king of the Jews. They saw His star rising and came to worship Him.*) Why do you think Herod was disturbed to hear this news? (*He was the king and didn't want someone to oust him from his throne.*) Where was the Messiah, the Promised King, supposed to be born? (*Matthew 2:5. In Bethlehem, as the prophet Micah had written.*) What led the Magi to the place where Jesus was? (*Matthew 2:9-10. The star.*) What did the Magi do when they saw Jesus? (*Matthew 2:11. They bowed down and worshiped Him.*) When meeting a king, it is customary to offer gifts to the king. What gifts did the Magi offer Jesus? (*Matthew 2:11. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*) So who did they think Jesus was? (*A king. The king of the Jews.*) How did God protect the Magi and Jesus from King Herod? (*Matthew 2:12. He warned the Magi in a dream not to go back to Herod.*)

How can we show that Jesus is our Lord of lords and King of kings?

PRAYER: Thank Jesus that He came as our King and gave His life for us. Also pray that all family members would follow Him as King and Lord and serve Him in all that they do.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Make a list of each person's “hard thing to give up” from the For Starters area. Invite each family member to pray and see how God might use that item for the Lord's service. Continue to discuss the results and review again in three weeks.