

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of October 30th, 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: **Parents of Young Children!***

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!*

Always Pray: Many families and individuals enjoy the good habit of praying out loud or silently before a meal. If you have someone over, teach your meal prayer to your guests and ask them to join in if they are comfortable. If you pray silently to yourself do it regardless of where you are or who is over. If you usually pray out loud and are at another person's house ask if you can – if they say no, still pray silently. People are watching. Regardless of your prayer habit, you can always ask the person you are with "Can I pray for you?" Who knows of the prayer opportunities that the Lord will give you when you live this way!

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 Proverbs 15-21! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions you have! To learn more about these chapters: <https://anchor.fm/rev-steve-andrews-jr>

-Memory verse: Revelation 7:17– "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: *For All the Saints who from Their Labors Rest* **LSB** 677, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 119:105-128

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on Christian Questions with Their Answers, 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: Using index cards or playing cards, see which family member can build the tallest card building in a set amount of time. Ask: "Whose card tower is not standing when time ran out? How could this be like someone at the end of his or her life?"

READ THE BIBLE: 2 Chronicles 21-24

KEY VERSE: Revelations 2:10b, *"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."*

TALK ABOUT IT: Did Joash's father Ahaziah and grandmother Athaliah follow the true God? (*2 Chronicles 22:2-4. They were idol worshipers and did what the LORD considered evil.*) After Joash's father was killed, his grandmother Athaliah murdered the rest of his family. How did Joash escape and survive? (*2 Chronicles 22:10-12. Joash's aunt saved him from being killed. She hid Joash in God's temple where the priests took care of him while his evil grandmother ruled the country for six years.*) Describe how Joash became king at only seven years old. (*2 Chronicles 23:1-3, 9-11. Jehoiada, a priest and uncle of Joash convinced the people that Joash should be king because the Lord said one of King David's sons would always rule. He stationed many troops around the temple so no one would stop them from anointing Joash as king. The people rejoiced and said, "Long live the king!"*) How did King Joash undo all the evil Athaliah had caused? (*2 Chronicles 24:2-5, 14. Joash did what the Lord said was right. He rebuilt the Lord's temple and the people offered burnt sacrifices to God again.*) Who influenced Joash to remain faithful to God's ways? (*2 Chronicles 24:2. Joash's uncle, Jehoiada, was the priest. Jehoiada had been a good and godly example for Joash.*) Who influenced Joash to turn his back on God? (*2 Chronicles 24:15-18. After Jehoiada's death, Joash listened to officials who gave him bad advice. Joash turned his back on God and began worshiping idols.*)

Why do you think Joash was so easily influenced or persuaded by idol worshipers to turn from God? (*He did not follow God with his whole heart and wanted to please others more than he wanted to please God.*) How can we finish strong to the end when we live in a sinful world where others might influence or persuade us to go the wrong way?

PRAYER: Thank God that He sent Jesus to die for our sins and to be the good example for us to follow. Pray that even when we mess up, we can remember to repent and ask for forgiveness. Thank God for Jesus living in our hearts and giving us the ability to finish strong.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Have the kids write a short letter to themselves for the future. Have them write words of encouragement to remain faithful to God their whole life, especially when they are ready to leave home. Seal the letters and save them in your box of nostalgic memories to be retrieved during your child's senior year of high school.