

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of February 19th, 2023*

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!*

Encouraging Email: This week pick someone you know who could use some encouragement and send them an email. Try and accomplish three simple things in the email: 1) Check in 2) Provide encouraging words from Scripture 3) Remind them you are here if they need to talk or pray. That is simple, but meaningful! That is free, but priceless! Who has God put in your life to encourage? Got them? Commence operation encourage!

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 Philippians 1-4 and Deuteronomy 1-3! 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: Matthew 4:4 – "But He answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

-Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* LSB 656/657, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 59

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer: Third Petition, on pg. 20-21. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The First Article (Part 1), pg. 133-145.

-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: Gather some broken objects or toys. Talk about when something broken is worth keeping and when it should be thrown away. Often it is kept when it is valuable or could be fixed. Say: "What about people? Do they break? Sometimes they feel broken on the inside when they are very sad, or maybe they have done something very wrong. Does God throw them away or fix them or what?" (*We are all broken as sinners, but He heals broken lives through Jesus!*)

READ THE BIBLE: John 5:1-47

KEY VERSE: Psalm 147:3, "*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*"

TALK ABOUT IT: Jesus went to a pool at Bethesda where a large number of sick people would lie. He asked one man if he wanted to get well. What did Jesus know about this man? (*John 5:6. That he had been sick for a long time.*) How long had this man been sick? (*John 5:5. 38 years.*) What did the man think he needed to be healed? (*John 5:7. He thought he had to get into the water when it was stirred, but there was no one to help him get in.*) What did Jesus do to heal this man? (*John 5:8. He told the man to get up, pick up his cot, and walk.*) How long did it take for the man to be healed after Jesus spoke? (*John 5:9. Immediately.*) What did the man have to do to be healed? (*Truly nothing. He then saw the beauty of the gift when he obeyed Jesus' command.*) Why do you think Jesus picked this man to heal from all of the other hurting people? (*We don't know. Maybe Jesus felt sorry that the man had no one to help him. Maybe Jesus knew he was broken inside and didn't have much hope. Maybe to show the power he had to heal since the man had been lame for so long.*) How was Jesus "pierced for our transgressions...crushed for our iniquities"? - Isaiah 53:5. (*He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins and rebellion.*) How do we receive peace and healing from His wounds? (*His Spirit comes to us and creates faith in our hearts. We can believe and trust in His promises for our lives now and have hope for eternal life.*)

PRAYER: Encourage family members to pray about a feeling they have had that reminds them of being broken and ask for Jesus to heal them. Thank God that Jesus heals because He gave His life for us when He died on the cross and rose again to live with us forever.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Families are important tools that God uses to help heal broken lives. Family members especially need to show love to the one who is feeling broken inside. Let each person describe what he or she usually does when they feel sad. Do they like to talk to others? Like to be alone? Do something fun? Each person may be different. Learn how to best show love to each person when they are feeling broken. Then pray for each other.