

## **Faith at Home Corner** - *For the week of February 26<sup>th</sup>, 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. **Purple** is a penitential color used during **Lent**. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer. Purple dye was rare, and therefore expensive. Only royalty could afford it. As part of the soldiers mocking Jesus, they put a purple garment on Him. It then helps us during Lent to remember the contempt and the scorn He endured as He sacrificed Himself for our sake. It calls our attention then to our daily need to live a life of repentance.

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

**Awake The Giant:** There is a giant out there waiting to wake up. When that giant wakes up the world will hear her roar! That giant is the Church. Just think if every member of St. Matthew saw it as their duty to tell someone about Jesus and then did it! WOW, and that is just St. Matthew! Help wake up the giant by picking three people in your life that the Lord has called you to serve and given you the opportunity to bring His good news to – and then bring it and bring it again and again. May the Lord so send His Church!

**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 Deuteronomy 4-10! 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: John 3:16-17 – “<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

-Hymn: *Children of the Heavenly Father*                      LSB 725, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 22

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer: Fourth Petition, on pg. 21. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The First Article (Part 2), pg. 146-155.

-Devotions resources: grab a copy of *Portals of Prayer* at church or subscribe to daily email devotions from [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org), [www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://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:** Say: "Tell about a time you were the hungriest you've ever been!" Serve snacks as you discuss. Then ask, "What do you think it feels like to be hungry in your spirit instead of just hungry in your body?"

**READ THE BIBLE:** John 6:1-42

**KEY VERSE:** John 6:35, "*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."*

**TALK ABOUT IT:** In the Bible event, there was a large crowd of how many people? (*John 6:10. Five thousand men, not counting women and children.*) One boy from the crowd had some food with him. What did he have to offer? (*John 6:9. Five loaves of bread and two small fish.*) Before Jesus gave the loaves to the people, He did what first? (*John 6:11. Jesus gave thanks.*) When Jesus distributed the food, everyone had all they wanted to eat. How much food did they collect as leftovers? (*John 6:13. Twelve baskets.*) After that, why did people come looking for Jesus? (*John 6:26. They wanted more food handouts.*)

In verse 27, Jesus said, "*Work for the food that lasts into eternal life. This is the food the Son of Man will give you.*" What do you think He meant? In John 6:35, what kind of food did Jesus say He was? (*The bread of life.*) What do you think He meant by that? What did He say would happen to those who come to Him and believe in Him? (*They would never go hungry or thirsty.*) What do you think He meant by that? Compare food that perishes with food that lasts forever. How are they alike? How are they different? (*They both provide nourishment and we need both. One is for our physical bodies, and one is for both our body and soul.*) When your spirit is hungry, how does Jesus, the "bread of life," come into your life? (*Through His Word and Sacrament, "Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*)

**PRAYER:** Thank God for giving us life with Jesus. Thank Him that Jesus gives Himself to us, in body and blood, good food that satisfies us forever.

## Family Time Option

*One day this week, try...*

**FAMILY TIME OPTIONS:** Talk to your church to see if you can help volunteer as a family working in the church's food pantry, or perhaps volunteer at a homeless shelter helping prepare or serve meals. As you help meet the needs of your neighbor's body, also share with them the good news that Jesus is the bread of life, and that "If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."