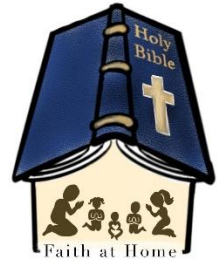


FAITH AT HOME CORNER

For the Week of December 31, 2023



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!***

Encourage young parents. Instead of giving a look of impatience, offer a consoling, compassionate demeanor. Tell young parents that, yes, you want their children in the Divine Service, because, after all, it's the place where they get to hear and receive Jesus Himself. And feel free to offer to sit by them and ask if there are ways you can help them care for their children while we all worship the Lord together!

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

Follow-Up – Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to invite a family member, friend, coworker, or well, anyone to come with you to church! If you did this year, or whenever you invite someone, follow up with them. Ask them a few questions about the service (Do they have any questions? What did they learn about their Savior? Talk about the Scripture readings, hymns, the sermon, etc.). And then, ask them if they'd like to join you there again this weekend!

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 Exodus 29-35 together! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions you have! To learn more about these chapters: <https://sandhandrews.wordpress.com/the-daily-bite/>

-Memory verse: Romans 6:4 – "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

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

-Psalm: 77

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Close of the Commandments, pg. 15. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Fourth Commandment, pg. 81-84.

-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: Have a scavenger hunt! Let each family member search for one personal belonging that is broken. Have them bring it for a show and tell. As each person tells about his broken possession, invite him to also tell about a time he has felt broken on the inside. This means telling about a time when he has been hurt or disappointed.

READ THE BIBLE: Read Luke 2:11: *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

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

TALK ABOUT IT: Who is Luke 2:11 talking about? (*Jesus.*) What is the name of “David’s city?” (*Bethlehem.*) The Bible says in Psalm 147:3 that Jesus heals our broken hearts. Did Jesus ever have a broken heart? Was He ever wounded? When and how? What are things He is brokenhearted about now? (*Those people who turn away from Him.*)

How does Jesus heal our broken hearts and our wounds? (*He took our sins and pain upon himself. 1 Peter 2:24: “He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.” He provided a way for us to approach God the Father through His death and resurrection. Jesus is in heaven today seated at the right hand of God interceding for us to our Heavenly Father. Romans 8:34: “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”*)

PRAYER: Thank the Lord for sending Jesus to earth to live with us and experience our pain. But most importantly thank Him that Jesus made a way for us with His death and resurrection. Pray for God to take away our brokenness.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Jesus promises that when we all live with Him in Paradise that it will be a perfect place where no one will ever feel broken on the inside. Make a special family card that says, “We will be with Jesus forever!” If each family member trusts in Jesus as his Savior, then when he dies, he will be in Paradise. This card helps remind us that we want each other to be there too. Have all family members who trust in Jesus as their Savior sign it.