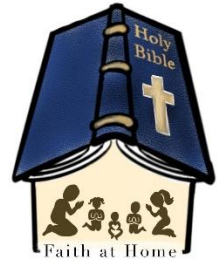


FAITH AT HOME CORNER

For the Week of January 6, 2024



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!***

FOMO, the Fear Of Missing Out – Many parents have said it; most have lived it. They are concerned about all the things they are missing out on in church. They're here, but they can't hear because they're busy wrangling the children. Just by being here, in the Lord's house, your children are learning great things. They are learning to value worship, to value hearing God's Word, and to value receiving His forgiveness through Word and Sacrament. They're even learning the liturgy, the theology of the Church, and the rich beauty of our hymns. But you are, too! Sure, you can't summarize the sermon, but you received the forgiveness of your sins, with the Lord's help, you battled the devil's temptation to sleep in and take it easy, and you gathered together with your brothers and sisters in Christ for encouragement and accountability. If you really want to hear the sermon, we do post those on the church website!

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

Go to Local Sporting Events – Attend local high school sports games. Cheer on your town team (this is also a great way to encourage and even begin mentoring youth from our congregation). Get to know the players and some of the parents by being there often. And, feel free to invite a friend or neighbor!

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 36-40 and Haggai 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: 1 Corinthians 6:12 – "All things are lawful for me,' but not all things are helpful. 'All things are lawful for me,' but I will not be dominated by anything."

-Hymn: *The Only Son from Heaven* **LSB** 402, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 139

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Apostles' Creed, First Article, 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: Satan wants to steal our joy and our peace. Sometimes he might use bullies. Other times he might even use our own attitudes when we forget to trust God or be thankful to Him. Let each person share a way that Satan has tried to steal his joy this last week.

READ THE BIBLE: Read Matthew 2 about the Magi in search of the Baby King.

KEY VERSE: John 10:10: *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."* Satan certainly fits this description.

TALK ABOUT IT: How did the Magi know that a King had been born? (*Matthew 2:1-2. The Magi had seen his star in the east and had come to worship Him.*) What did Herod want the Magi to do once they had found the Baby? (*Matthew 2:8. Once they had found the Baby, they were to report back to Herod.*) How did God protect Baby Jesus? (*Matthew 2:12-14. God warned the Magi in a dream not to go back to Herod. God also told Joseph in a dream to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt.*) Why do you think Herod wanted Baby Jesus dead? (*He was jealous; he wanted to be the only king.*)

Satan was working through Herod to kill Baby Jesus but he did not succeed. When Jesus grew up He willingly went to His death. Did Satan have a victory? (*No, Jesus chose to die for our sins rather than let us die forever. Jesus then came back to life. Ephesians 5:2.*) What can we say to Satan when he tries to steal, hurt, or kill us? (*We can simply speak the truth, remembering that we are children of God, forgiven in Christ! Our hymn, #594, "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" is an excellent thing to sing during those times where the devil or your own sinful flesh is at work against you. Verse 3 is specifically pointed against the crafty foe.*)

PRAYER: Thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins so we might boldly use His name to speak against Satan and say, *"Get behind me, Satan! Jesus has forgiven me!"*

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

What does each family member need special prayer for this week? Write these things down on a prayer list and keep this list in a visible place to remind family members to pray for one another throughout the week.