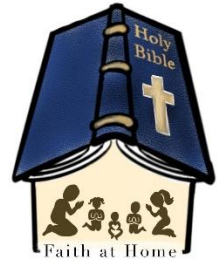


FAITH AT HOME CORNER

For the Week of January 13, 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!***

Offer to help young parents. Sit with them in their pew. Assist them in holding the hymnal for their children. Let the children sit on your lap. Sometimes, it helps parents to just have someone else as the other bookend in the pew so the children can't escape! And encourage the children to participate in the Divine Service.

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

Serve your Neighbors - Help a neighbor by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, fixing a car. Stop by the neighborhood association or apartment office and ask if there is anything you can do to help improve things. Ask your local Police and Fire Stations if there is anything you can do to help them. Get creative. Just serve!

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 Mark 1-7 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: Psalm 62:1-2 - "1For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation.
2He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken."

-Hymn: *O Christ, Our True and Only Light* LSB 839, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 62

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Apostles' Creed, Second Article, pg. 17. Digging Deeper with the Explanation - The Sixth Commandment, pg. 93-104

-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: Get out the family photo albums and go through baby pictures. (Home videos will work as well.) The parent(s) recall what he or she felt or was thinking at the specific time certain pictures were taken. Then have everyone discuss how he thinks God felt when we were adopted into His family.

READ THE BIBLE: Matthew 3, Jesus' baptism.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 3:17: *"and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"*

TALK ABOUT IT: What message was John the Baptist preaching? (*Repent and prepare the way for the Lord.*) Who came and heard John and what did they then do? (*People from Jerusalem, Judea, and the whole region of Jordan confessed their sins and were baptized by John.*) How did John feel about baptizing Jesus? (*He felt unworthy.*) Why did Jesus say he must be baptized? (*To do all God wanted Him to do - Jesus kept all of God's Law perfectly so He could take our place, dying the death we deserve for our sins.*) What miraculous thing happened as soon as Jesus was baptized? (*Heaven opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove on Jesus and God's voice was heard saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*) Why was God pleased with His Son? (*Jesus obeyed the Father, doing His will. He loved His Son Jesus dearly.*)

Remind children that through baptism, we are adopted into God's family. Then ask, "How do you feel knowing that through baptism, God says, 'I am your God, you are My child whom I love'?"

PRAYER: Spend time praising God and thanking Him for the gift of baptism and the privilege of being adopted into His family.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Light baptismal candles or other candles to celebrate and remember when various family members were baptized or first trusted in Jesus as their Savior. A special song could be sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Substitute the words "I was baptized, happy day! All my sins were washed away. God looked down on me and smiled. I became His own dear child. Yes, Jesus loves me; yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. My Baptism tells me so." (Stanza text © 1949 CPH.)