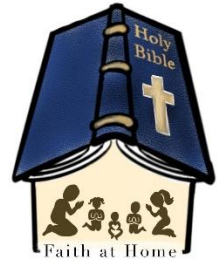


FAITH AT HOME CORNER

For the Week of March 24, 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!***

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. **Scarlet** is used only during Holy Week from **Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday**. It stands in contrast to the traditional red that is used on Festival Sundays. Scarlet's use during the somber days of Holy Week help to offer a different message. It is the color of blood, and helps us connect to the Passion, the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Holy Week: Our church's tradition of celebrating Holy Week is not universal. This is a fantastic opportunity to share Christ with others. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Three opportunities to invite others to hear the Word. Three opportunities to speak to your neighbor about the faith you hold dear (as they probably have no clue that Maundy means "a new commandment," and is the night we received the Lord's Supper, or why we call His death "good," and Easter is the high point of the year!).

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 a series of texts this week for Easter together: Numbers 21, Psalm 22, Matthew 20, Matthew 26-28, and 1 Corinthians 15! 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: Isaiah 25:8 (Challenge! add v. 9) – "He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord Yahweh will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people He will take away from all the earth, for Yahweh has spoken."

-Hymn: *Awake, My Heart with Gladness* LSB 467, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 140

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer, Seventh Petition and Conclusion, pg. 22. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Apostles' Creed, Second Article, Part 2, pg. 176-187.

-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: Begin with two plastic grocery bags and small sections of scrap paper. Ask everyone to write on the pieces of paper some loving things they would do for a friend. Then pick a few to read. Put all of these papers into a grocery bag and label it “Acts of Love.” Then label the next bag, “People Who Have Hurt Us.” Ask the family to write some mean things that have been done to them on sheets of scrap paper. Then write what would be a good punishment for those things. Place these in that bag and ask if anyone wants to talk about what he wrote.

Then say, “Did Jesus ever get even with us because of what we have done against Him? No. Even on the cross He said, ‘Father forgive them.’ He traded His ‘get even’ with an act of love for us. He took our punishment on Himself. Can we trade our ‘get evens’ with acts of love?’ Empty the bag labeled “People Who Have Hurt Us” of all the “get evens.” Put them into the trash. Then pour the other bag’s acts of love into it. Ask again, “Can we trade our ‘get evens’ for acts of love?”

READ THE BIBLE: Matthew 27:11-50

KEY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:21: *“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

TALK ABOUT IT: Why did Jesus say nothing in reply to Pilate? (*Matthew 27:14.*) Pilate did not think Jesus was guilty. How did the people respond in verse 25 and what are the implications? What kinds of things were done to Jesus in verse 27-44? Why did Jesus refuse the drink offered to Him on the cross? (*Matthew 27:34. Jesus had just promised His disciples He would not drink of the fruit of the vine again until He did so with them in Paradise [Matthew 26:29].*)

To sacrifice means to offer the life of something to God to gain forgiveness. How is Jesus the ultimate sacrifice for our sins? (*“But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God...for by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” Hebrews 10:12, 14.*) How did Jesus prove His love for us? (*He traded His life for the punishment we deserve for sin.*) Jesus traded places with us to win for us everlasting life.

PRAYER: Think about how much suffering Jesus went through for us, and spend time thanking Him that we do not have to experience that kind of suffering, especially separation from God. Pray for those who don’t know Jesus as their Savior and how you might witness to them.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

On this week before Easter think of creative ways to invite friends to your church’s Easter service, even if it’s online. You might want to make personalized cards. Or make special Easter cookies to be delivered with an invitation. (*White macaroons can be a reminder of the stone that has been rolled away.*) Maybe you just make a simple phone call.