

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of April 14th, 2019*

by Rev. Steve Andrews Jr.

Weekly Tip for Worshipping with Your Children: *Worshipping with children is not easy, but it is necessary! 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: Parents of Young Children!*

At what age should I expect a child to participate in worship? Their ability to participate will increase with age. At first it might be just folding hands, then standing and sitting. With a little work at home during the week, and in the time before the service, they can learn parts of the liturgy or hymn refrains as soon as they are talking. After they learn to read they can begin to follow along with the hymns and the liturgy and join in signing. By 4th or 5th grade most children can and should be fully participating.

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

Easter 3 – 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 what Maundy means a new commandment, referring to the Lord's Supper, or why we call His death "good," and Easter is 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>

-Scripture Readings: Let's read Numbers 21, Psalm 22, Matthew 20, Matthew 26-28, and 1 Corinthians 15. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Luke 24:5-7 – ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

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

-Psalm: 16

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Apostles' Creed, Third Article, What does this mean?, pg. 17-18. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Third Article, Part Two, pg. 205-221.

-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: Ask: "If we were to welcome Jesus into our home as a guest tomorrow, what would we do to welcome him? What do you think Jesus would do when he arrives?" Discuss. Point out that we would welcome him as a king, but he would probably do something to serve us.

READ THE BIBLE: John 18:19-19:30

KEY VERSE: Philippians 2:8, *"He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross."*

TALK ABOUT IT: What did Jesus prove about himself in this passage, and yet was treated just the opposite? (*He said he had done nothing in secret and had done nothing wrong, yet a guard slapped his face.*) What did Pilate think opposite of what the Jews thought about Jesus? (*John 18:38. He did not think Jesus was guilty of anything.*) How were Jesus and Barabbas opposites? (*Barabbas was guilty of his crimes; Jesus was innocent.*) Pilate offered to free Barabbas, a criminal, as was the custom at Passover. How did the Jews respond opposite of what he expected? (*John 18:39. They wanted Barabbas freed instead of Jesus.*) How was Jesus mocked or treated like a king even though they meant the opposite? (*John 19:5, 19. They put a crown of thorns and a purple robe on him. They put a sign on the cross that read, "Jesus from Nazareth, the king of the Jews."*) According to John 19:10-11, Pilate told Jesus he had the authority to free or crucify him. What was the opposite? (*Jesus told him the only authority he had over Jesus was given to him from above or from God.*) How do you think Jesus felt on this day? (*Sad.*) What does Hebrews 12:2b tell you about how Jesus felt? It says, *"He saw the joy ahead of him, so he endured death on the cross and ignored the disgrace it brought him. Then he received the highest position in heaven, the one next to the throne of God."* (*Jesus felt both sad and glad.*) What do you think he was sad about? (*Pain, suffering, people rejecting him, his followers abandoning him, God 's judgment on the cross.*) What could he be glad about? (*He loves us so much, that he was willing to suffer. His mission was accomplished. He would be in heaven with his Father again.*)

PRAYER: Encourage family members to pray for specific things they are facing. Then close thanking God for his awesome plan of making us innocent and freeing us of the guilt of our sin through Jesus.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: This week set aside an evening to watch one of the videos available for rent that tell of Jesus' life (like *The Gospel of John*). Challenge each family member to think of one person they can invite to Easter services next Sunday.