

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of April 28th, 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 with Young Children!***

My child loves books, but can't read on their own yet...should I be reading to them during the service? If you let your child bring Bible-related books to church, read the books to your child at home during the week, before you come to church. That way they can "retell" the story to themselves as they look at the pictures. They will be more interested in it if they know what the story is about.

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

Be Outside! – The inventions of things like AC and garage door openers, while nice to have, have really reduced our amount of time and contact with others in our neighborhoods. Find simple ways to be outside longer. Maybe it's putting a couple chairs on the front porch and enjoying some relaxation outside. Maybe it's hanging out with your children and neighborhood children as they play outside. Maybe it's taking a little longer to water the lawn, or mow the grass, or shovel the snow. Be outside more. And if you see a neighbor, just start with a "Hello!"

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 Jeremiah 5-11. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Revelation 5:12 – ¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

-Hymn: *With High Delight Let Us Unite* LSB 483 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 30

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Baptism, Part 2, pg. 23-24. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Lord's Prayer, pg. 231-236.

-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: For discussion, say “Let’s think about things we might have a hard time believing unless we saw them happen such as anything you have seen at a circus, on TV, or read in a ‘Believe It or Not’ book. Today we will read about someone who would only believe Jesus is alive after he saw proof with his eyes. I wonder what Jesus says about those who believe without seeing?”

READ THE BIBLE: John 19:38-20:31

KEY VERSE: John 20:29b, *“Blessed are those who haven’t seen me but believe.”*

TALK ABOUT IT: After reading the Resurrection event from John 19:38-20:23, have family members list the signs that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead:

1. *The stone was rolled away. (John 20:1)*
2. *The tomb was empty. (John 20:2,5)*
3. *The linen cloth was folded. (John 20: 6-7.)*
4. *Angels sitting where Jesus’ body had been lying. (John 20:11-13.)*
5. *Jesus appeared to Mary. (John 20:14-18.)*
6. *Jesus appeared to the disciples behind locked doors. (John 20:19-23.)*
7. *Jesus appeared a second time. (John 20:26-28.) Both times Jesus appeared, people could see his wounds and even touch him.]*

Read John 20:24-29. Why do you think Jesus told Thomas to put his finger on the nail marks of his hands and where the spear pierced his side? *(Thomas had not been with the others when Jesus appeared the first time and said he would believe only if he could see and feel Jesus’ hands and side.)* How do you think Jesus knew Thomas had said this? *(Jesus is God and knows all things.)*

PRAYER: Encourage family members to pray for others who may not believe that Jesus is the Messiah or the Promised One because they have not seen him. Thank God for the gift of Jesus we receive through faith.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

FAMILY TIME OPTIONS: Discuss as a family how you would answer someone who asks you to prove that Jesus is alive. One of the ways people believe is that they see evidence. The early disciples all said they saw him alive and most ended up dying for that conviction of faith. People believed their witness. People around you can see the reality of Jesus in your words and actions as well.

While we can’t “argue” someone in to the faith, this activity is about apologetics (defending our faith). For a couple helpful apologetics on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, check out these links:

- <https://adam4d.com/jesus-rose-from-dead/>
- <https://coldcasechristianity.com/writings/is-there-any-evidence-for-jesus-outside-the-bible/>