

## **Faith at Home Corner** - *For the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

*by Rev. Steve Andrews Jr.*

**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: **Parents with Young Children!***

**2 minute warning:** When a parent's instructions are going to interrupt or end an activity, giving the child a 2 minute warning can relieve the frustrations of having to leave or end an activity without warning.

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

**What is Easter, anyway?** Not surprisingly, our culture doesn't understand the holiday of Easter. They see Christians celebrating, but they also see eggs, bunnies, and over-priced candy by the truckload. In the early church, they used "Christ is risen!" as a greeting. Maybe this won't work with your employer, but it could be a good introduction in conversations with your family, friends, and neighbors. Look for other ways, too, to turn the conversation from Easter to what Easter is actually about. For example, instead of asking, "How was your weekend?" you could say, "Good morning! Did you celebrate the resurrection this weekend?"

**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 Acts 22-28! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: 1 John 1:8-9 – "8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

-Hymn: *O Sons and Daughters of the King*                      [LSB 470/471](#), also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 105

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Apostle's Creed, Second Article, on pg. 17. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Third Article (Part 1), pg. 195-204.

-Devotions resources: grab a copy of *Portals of Prayer* at church or subscribe to daily email devotions from [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org), [www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://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:** Let each family member rub an inflated balloon against the top of his or her head. As hairs stand on end, let each one tell about a situation in which they panic... or feel worried. Today we will remember again how Jesus coming alive gives us a reason not to panic or be worried.

**READ THE BIBLE:** Mark 15:42-16:7. Jesus came back to life.

**KEY VERSE:** Matthew 28:20b, *“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

**TALK ABOUT IT:** Which women were the first to go to Jesus’ tomb? (*Mark 16:1. Mary from Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome*) What had happened to the stone rolled against the door of the tomb? (*Mark 16:4. The stone had been rolled away.*) The women looked inside and saw a man dressed in a white robe. It was an angel. Why did they panic? (*The appearance of angels always seems to leave people terrified.*) What did the angel say? (*Mark 16:6. Stress the main point: Don’t panic! Jesus is brought back to life.*) When do you think the women first started to panic? (*Maybe when Jesus was arrested and nailed on the cross. On this Sunday, they seemed anxious about who would move the stone. They may have panicked when they saw the stone rolled away.*)

What things make you panic? What do you think makes adults panic? Different things can make us panic. When we know that Jesus is alive and there for us, we have reason not to panic. Some people panic when they think about death. Some panic when they see something that scares them. Sometimes we panic when little things go wrong. Whenever we panic, we need to remember what the angel said, *“Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here.”*

**PRAYER:** Give praise to God that through Jesus’ death and resurrection, He proved His might. Thank the Lord for saying He will never leave or forsake us. When we panic, we can turn to Him for comfort. We can trust God with our lives.

## Family Time Option

*One day this week, try...*

Keep an open plastic Easter egg in a conspicuous place for a month. It will remind everyone of the empty tomb and the reason we need not panic. If anyone is feeling stressed or worried, another family member can show her the open egg and remind her of what Jesus has done.