

Faith at Home Corner - For the week of April 11th, 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!*

Come to communion! Many times children don't want to come up to communion because they don't get to eat with us. But, calling it *communion* is done to stress the idea that we are a *community* with a *common union*. Together, we are God's family. Pastor will gladly speak a blessing to them if they come up! It is not our desire to leave children out, but to protect them from taking the Lord's Supper in a way that would be harmful to themselves (1 Corinthians 11), until they have received proper instruction. By coming up now with their family, they learn the importance of this family meal!

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

Lots of Visitors: Did you know that almost every weekend we have a new visitor in church? PRAISE THE LORD! Feel free to ask the pastors to introduce you to a visitor, or introduce your visiting friend to the pastors! Please note that some of these visitors come from different cultures, have different customs, and may even speak a completely different language. Regardless of this, Christian love is still the same! They need Christian love and fellowship just as we do. Through your words, actions, and prayers let us make St. Matthew a place for these families to come and to receive God's gifts through His Word and Sacraments!

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 Philemon, Nahum, and 1 Kings 1-3! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Luke 2:46-48 – “⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

-Hymn: *With High Delight Let Us Unite*

LSB 483, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 106

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Apostle's Creed, Third Article, on pg. 17-18. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Third Article (Part 2), 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: Go to the kitchen and see if anyone can make an egg stand on its end. (You will need an egg and a half a teaspoon of salt. Simply sprinkle salt on a hard surface and then balance the egg on it, which may take you a few tries!) Then have family members return and ask: "When have you failed (fell down) and Jesus helped you up?" Because Jesus arose, (alive and standing like the egg) He lifts us up!

READ THE BIBLE: John 20:1-18 Jesus is resurrected and appears to Mary.

KEY VERSE: 1 Peter 1:3, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

TALK ABOUT IT: What did Mary see when she went to Jesus' tomb early Sunday morning? (*John 20:1. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb's entrance.*) What did she do then? (*John 20:2. She ran to the disciples and told them they had removed the Lord from the tomb and didn't know where they had put him.*) What did Peter and John (the other disciple) see in the tomb when they arrived there? (*John 20:5-7. They saw strips of linen and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, His burial clothes.*) How did John respond when he saw the linens but not Jesus' body? (*John 20:8 He believed.*)

Why do you think Mary stood at the tomb crying? (*Maybe she didn't know Jesus had risen from the dead.*) When she looked inside the tomb, what did she see? (*John 20:12. Two angels.*) Why do you think Mary saw the angels but Peter and John did not? When Mary turned around and saw Jesus, who did she think He was? (*John 20:15. The gardener.*) When did Mary recognize Jesus? (*John 20:16. When He called her by name.*) Why do you think the disciples went back home? What privilege did Mary receive because she stayed at the tomb? (*John 10:18. She was first to see the risen Lord.*)

How would you have felt if you had been Peter and John? How might you have felt differently if you had been Mary and had seen Jesus and He called you by your name?

It would seem that Jesus' resurrection from the dead was impossible to Mary and the disciples. Because Jesus did rise from the dead, we will also do something that seems impossible. We are able to live with Jesus right now because He is alive with us. He calls each of us by name. We will also live with him forever in His kingdom after we die or if He first returns.

PRAYER: Thank God for the power of His resurrection to give us life and that He is always with us. He helps us in our sadness and will one day in Paradise wipe away all our tears.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Because Jesus rose from the dead, all those who trust Him as their Savior shall be alive someday with Jesus in Paradise. Make a family agreement that all will trust Jesus and be sure to be together someday in Paradise forever!