

# Holy Families! Family Faith Formation

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. - Deuteronomy 11:18-19

## Faith in Real Life: Losing Someone Hurts

Sally knew that her Grandpa George had been ill. She had visited him in the nursing home many times, and more recently had seen him at the hospital. One afternoon when Sally came home from school, her parents greeted her at the front door with very serious faces. They all sat down on the couch together and her mother held her hand.

“Sally,” her mother began, “You know Grandpa George has been very sick, right?”

“Yes,” Sally answered, wondering what was wrong.

“Well, honey, Grandpa died today. He got tired of fighting the disease in his body and wanted to be with Jesus. He said to remind you that he loved you very much, but that is was his time to go.”

Sally had never lost a loved to death before, so she wasn't sure what to think; she only knew that she was very, very sad. Her dad asked her, “Sally, do you understand what your mama is saying about Grandpa? Do you have any questions, honey?”



Sally didn't have any questions at that moment, she just felt like crying. Her mom and dad wrapped their arms around her and prayed with her. They told her that Grandpa George loved Jesus and they were sure he was with him now, even as he had been with Christ his whole life.

## Questions for Family Discussion

- Have you ever lost a loved one like Sally lost her Grandpa? How did you feel when you found out your loved one had died?
- Read together **John 11:1-36**. What does Jesus say he is in this passage? What does that mean? What do we confess to believe about the resurrection?
- Why are we so sad when someone we love has died? What is the source of our comfort and hope that this life is not all there is and that we have something more to look forward to?
- How did Jesus feel about his friend's grief over their brother, Lazarus' death? What does that tell us about how Jesus feels when we grieve?

## From Luther's Small Catechism

In the Apostles' Creed we confess each week in worship, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.”

What does this mean?

... Every day, God forgives me for all the things I have done wrong; just like he does for everyone in the Church who believes in him. On the last day, God will bring me and everyone else back to life, and will let me and everyone who believes in Jesus live with him forever. I know this is true.

*Thinking about the story, fill in the blanks below. Use the words from the Word Bank:*

**promise      last      life      faith      grief**  
**raise      Christ      alone**

When a person who believes in \_\_\_\_\_ dies, they have the \_\_\_\_\_ of eternal \_\_\_\_\_ with God. Jesus cares for us in our \_\_\_\_\_ and sorrow and assures us that we will never be \_\_\_\_\_.

Even though we will all die, we have \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus will come again and \_\_\_\_\_ all believers on the \_\_\_\_\_ day.

**Color in the words below:**

Jesus is with  
us always!

## Pray Together

*(If your child is not a reader, have them repeat after you, a few words at a time.)*

**Loving God, you are the God of the living and you sent your Son, Jesus to be with us always. He is the “Resurrection and the Life” and promises that through faith we will always be together with him in his kingdom. Comfort us in times of sadness and give us joy when we suffer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**