



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith



The whole world is hurting, and many are longing for God's help.

As Christians, we are called to be part of God's work of healing and renewing what is broken in our world, especially during these difficult times.



As the coronavirus is causing so many people to be sick or unemployed, it's easy to wonder: if God is all-good and all-powerful, why is our world so broken? Jesus promised "all power on heaven and earth has been given to me" and then, this Sunday, we hear about how he ascends into heaven. Why did he leave earth when so much still needs to be fixed?

While discussing this with our children, we can point out that Jesus commanded the disciples to go and make disciples of all the world. God's plan for redeeming the world involves *us*. We get to help heal what is broken here on earth.

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

Acts 1:1-11

Jesus ascends to heaven and promises the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 47:2-3, 6-9

God is king over all the Earth.

Ephesians 1:17-23

May God give you a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

Matthew 28:16-20

Go and baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son and holy Spirit.

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Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

- Talk with your children about some things that are wrong or broken in this world and discuss how the following things could make the world better:
 - Beauty**—what is pleasing to the senses
 - Truth**—how things really are or should be
 - Goodness**—what God provides for our needs
- Tell your children that, when they were baptized, they were joined to Jesus and he gave them a share in his role of being priest, prophet and king: the power to see and praise beauty (priest), to understand and teach the truth (prophet), and to take care of the people and things he created (king).
- Tell your children about a time that you saw them make something beautiful, say something that was true, or do something that was good.
- Ask them about how they would like to help fix the things that are broken in the world. Maybe they could be an artist or musician who makes beautiful things. Maybe they could be a teacher that helps children understand the truth. Maybe they could be a doctor or nurse who could take care of people's needs. Encourage them to ask God for help in learning how to become who they are meant to be.



If God is all-powerful and all-good, how is there evil in the world?

This is one of the biggest challenges of our faith. When discussing this with our children, sometimes it helps to flip the question: how is there so much good in the world?

- **Consider your breath:** so many things have to happen in order for each breath to take place, and yet we breathe all day long without even thinking about it, even in our sleep. Each breath is good and a gift from God!
- **Consider the sun:** everyday it shines without our help, and the sky is lit up in a new way with each sunrise and sunset. The sun is good and a gift from God!
- **Consider the rain:** the rain falls to water the plants and trees that make our surroundings green and beautiful. The rain is good and a gift from God!

St. Thomas Aquinas taught that evil isn't a thing in itself, it's just the absence of a good that should exist. When we learn to see the world with gratitude and wonder, it's easy to see that God is indeed all-powerful and all-good. The proof is in all of creation, and in all of us.

What other proof of God's goodness can you see?

For more resources, including previous issues of At Home with Faith, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>