

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

Wisdom and virtue are good. We should never forget, however, that these good things are meant for a purpose: a stronger relationship with God. At heart, the purpose of every created thing is helping us to follow Jesus.



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.

We parents want our children to be self-reliant and resilient. In many ways, we want them to become like the rich young man in our Gospel reading who has built good habits and financial security, arguably a good person.

We need to go further. We don't want our children, like the rich young man in the story, to walk away from Jesus because they are too attached to the good things of this world. God made us, and any goodness we possess is a temporary gift from him. That is why Jesus tells the rich young man "only God is good." Let's remember, and remind our children, that no matter what we accomplish, we always need Jesus.

Wisdom 7:7-10

I preferred wisdom to all things of the earth.

Psalm 90

Fill us with your love Lord, and we will sing for joy.

Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God is living and effective.

Mark 10:17-30

God: the source of all goodness.

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Talk

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

Do these five things to help your child understand what it means to be a good person:

- **Ask your child:** what does it mean to be good? Encourage them to think about this question and see if they can offer examples.
- **Help them to see the connection between goodness and fullness:** Share with your child the connection between a thing being good and that thing being able to live out its purpose. For example, a good apple tree grows healthy and produces apples. A good dog is healthy and loves its family. Good things fully express what they are meant to be.
- **Ask your child what they think it means to be a good person:** Encourage them to think about goodness in terms of receiving life from God and becoming what we are meant to be. Remind them we are contingent beings - we depend on God.
- **Let your child know that our goodness, like our life, is a gift from God:** Help your child to see that God, who created us and gave us life, also enables everything we do. We can do many good things, but everything we do is done with what God gives us. Becoming good or staying good depends on remaining close with him.
- **Remind your child that Jesus is God's way of helping us be close to him:** Through Jesus God never stops helping us to grow in goodness.



Pope Francis encourages us to foster a **“thirst for the good”** in our children.

For more on the Year of the Family, visit <https://archseattle.org/yof>

“Doing what is right means more than ‘judging what seems best’ or knowing clearly what needs to be done, as important as this is. Often we prove inconsistent in our own convictions, however firm they may be; even when our conscience dictates a clear moral decision, other factors sometimes prove more attractive and powerful. We have to arrive at the point where the good that the intellect grasps can take root in us as a profound affective inclination, as a thirst for the good that outweighs other attractions and helps us to realize that what we consider objectively good is also good ‘for us’ here and now. A good ethical education includes showing a person that it is in his own interest to do what is right. Today, it is less and less effective to demand something that calls for effort and sacrifice, without clearly pointing to the benefits which it can bring.”

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) #265

Pope Francis encourages us to foster a “thirst for the good” in our children. As parents, we are responsible not only for teaching our children to do the right thing, but also to let them know that those good habits help bring us closer to God.

For more resources, visit us online at:

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