

Questions about God – from a Six Year Old!

Introduction

Every so often, I have the opportunity to spend time with my six year old granddaughter, Kailee. During those times, I try to talk to Kailee about God a little bit – to try to give her at least some basic information about our Heavenly Father, His beloved Son, and His kingdom.

One of the primary reasons why I do this is because Scripture *encourages* us to speak to children about God:

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV):

⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (ESV):

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 (ESV):

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

An Unexpected Question

About a month ago, I had an opportunity to spend some time with Kailee. On this occasion, I took her to a park near my house. It was a beautiful day – the sun was shining, it was about 70 degrees, and the grass was a rich green color.

So, while we were on swings, I said to Kailee, “God sure created a pretty world for us, didn’t He?”

Kailee gave a very simple answer: “Yeah.” She didn’t elaborate on the subject, so I *assumed* that the topic was closed.

However, it appears that my initial question had caused “wheels to start turning” in her mind. About 10 minutes after my initial question, while I was helping Kailee roller skate, **she** asked **me** the following question:

How did God create everything?

I must admit, I was quite surprised – and slightly *panicked* – about that question. First of all, as mentioned above, I thought that the whole topic of “creation” was closed – so I wasn’t expecting any questions on it.

Even more importantly, though, I never really think about **how** God created the universe – I just “take it for granted” that God **did** it.

So, Kailee’s question is an extremely “fundamental” one – **how** is it that our Heavenly Father was able to create everything in existence?

My Fumbling Response

Needless to say, I certainly wanted to provide a good answer to Kailee’s question. Not only do I want to speak the truth about God, but I also hope to help Kailee develop a reverence for God.

So, after Kailee asked her question, in my mind I quickly thought back to Genesis (while fighting off panic...):

Genesis 1:3 (ESV):

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Genesis 1:9 (ESV):

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.

Genesis 1:11 (ESV):

¹¹And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so.

Genesis 1:14-15 (ESV):

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.

From the above, Scripture tells us the following: God **spoke** creation into existence!

As a result, I gave Kailee this answer to her question: “Well, God just said that everything should exist, and it did.”

Initially, I was afraid that Kailee wouldn’t really “understand” that response – i.e., that the idea of God simply saying something – and then it happening – wouldn’t really make sense to her. However, she *did* seem to understand – and in fact, her **next** question really “blew my mind”:

You mean, God can just say to a tree “grow”, and it grows?

The specific wording that Kailee used in that question is quite interesting – because take a look at this verse:

Luke 17:6 (ESV):

⁶And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

So, I told Kailee that yes – God can tell a tree to grow, and it will certainly grow. Then she asked a similar question: “So God can just say for the grass to be planted, and it is?” Of course, that is exactly what Genesis 1:11, above, states – so I told her that God can also do that.

Kailee’s final statement was actually the most difficult to deal with. After the above conversation, Kailee made the following “editorial remark”:

That sounds weird.

In other words, it sounds quite strange to her that God is able to just say for things to happen – and then they happen. That is a very understandable reaction; because after all, we cannot just speak things into existence.

I didn’t really know how to handle Kailee’s last statement; so I said something to the effect of: “Yes, it does sound weird, but God can do things that we can’t. That’s why He is God, and we aren’t.”

Upon reflection, I probably should have said something about God’s Holy Spirit – i.e., His “personal power and presence” – which allows God to accomplish His will in the universe. As mentioned, though, I was rather “taken aback” by this whole line of questioning from Kailee; so I was having a hard time formulating cogent responses at that point.

Conclusion

Scripture certainly *encourages* us to talk to young children about God. This makes perfect sense, since it is much, *much* easier to develop reverence for God in children while they are young – as opposed to waiting until they are rebellious teenagers...

An item to note, though, is that from my (limited) experience, it appears that young children are very inquisitive. In other words, at least in some cases, they will ask you for *more information*, if you talk to them about God (or about any other subject, for that matter.)

Not only that, but the *types* of questions that young children can ask can be very “fundamental” – i.e., getting to the basic metaphysical roots of a subject. So, I would encourage everyone to speak to children about God – but *also* to have some good answers prepared ahead of time!