

Sparking faith in our children

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“Mommy, I wish God could make more winter so the cicadas could stop giving me a headache,” said my nearly 5-year-old to me this week. Thanks to “The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That” (a TV show), we had learned all about cicadas this week and how they go underground for the winter.

I wish for the childlike faith of my son. In his eyes, God can fix lots of things. Solve his problems. Maybe he even thinks that God is magic. I’m not sure, but I am sure that he trusts God in a way that my complicated, over thinking adult brain has a hard time with. I can’t just wish away the problems in the world.

But I do wonder if I could learn some things from my son. I wonder if I could learn to trust God a little bit more. Perhaps I could trust God to give me the courage I need to do something about the problems in the world. Maybe God is doing something in the world, and I’m just refusing to see or to be part of it all.

I’m not sure about that. But, as I’ve served Cross of Glory over the last few months, I’ve found a place where I do get to be part of exploring these questions. I’ve found a place where the faith of my son is welcomed, even though he gets pretty hyper during church. More than that, his faith has been nurtured by the caring adults and faith of this congregation. My time here will end on Aug. 28, and Pastor Dana O’Brien will begin in September. She is a great pastor with a real heart for serving the community, and I hope that you’ll bring your children to meet her.

The faith of children is welcome here with all their questions and inability to sit still. Some parents say it is too much work to go to church, or that they want their kids to make their own choices as adults. But I am sure that my child would not be able to find a faith this strong or trusting once he knows how complicated the world can be. I am also sure that giving him this strong foundation now will give him the skills he needs to deal with a complicated world as he grows and learns.

Maybe God won’t give him more winter to quiet the cicadas, but perhaps God is giving him the kind of faith and trust that will enable him to be part of what God is doing in this world of ours.

Blessings to you in your own faith journey. I’ll leave you all with the words of Jesus. In Matthew 18:1-5, Jesus answers a disciple’s question by finding a child. The disciple says, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus replies by telling the disciple to have childlike faith and that “whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.” You are invited to find faith for your children or to discover a childlike faith of your own at the Welcome Place at Cross of Glory at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

The opinions of this column are that of the writer. They do not necessarily reflect those of The Homer Horizon.