

Parenting Point

by Heather Melcher, DCE

Prayer and The Bible: Always start out by asking the Holy Spirit to help you. Use a study Bible, concordance and/or online resource like www.biblegateway.com to find what the Bible says about the question your child is asking. My favorite study Bibles are:

- Faith Alive Bible – designed to appeal to older children and teens, ESV version
 - The Lutheran Study Bible – designed for teens and adults, ESV version
 - Concordia Self Study Bible – designed for teens and adults, old NIV version
- They are all published by Concordia Publishing House and available at www.cph.org.

Ask Your Pastor: If your pastor does not know the answer himself, he will likely have a book about the topic or know a professor or other pastor who can help.

Visit www.lcms.org: Check The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod website. Type the topic of your question in the search bar to see links or documents related to that topic.

Get a Book from CPH: Concordia Publishing House, the official publishing company of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod offers some great books designed to help answer tough questions about faith. I like getting books from CPH rather than just whatever I can find at a Christian bookstore or library because CPH is very careful to keep everything true to the Bible. Every resource goes through doctrinal review by highly trained pastors before being published.

Some books that are especially handy when helping teens think through tough questions are:

Faith and Science in a Skeptical Age

by Jesse Yow, editor. Concordia Publishing House, 2014.

Summarizes the positions of science and the Bible on various topics teens are thinking about including the big bang theory, aliens, spirituality, magick, witchcraft, dreams, demons, angles, heaven hell, cloning, stem cell research and various others.

Starting at the End: Worldview, God's Word and Your Future

by Brad Alles. Concordia Publishing House, 2013.

Compares several worldviews including Secular Humanism, Marxism, New Age, Islam and Christianity. Alles examines the assumptions, philosophy, ethics and expected future of each belief system.

Life's Big Questions, God's Big Answers

by Brad Alles. Concordia Publishing House, 2010.

Discusses evolution, creation, the Bible, Jesus' existence, postmodernism, tolerance, being able to defend our faith, witnessing and other topics.

Called to Believe, Teach, and Confess: An Introduction to Doctrinal Theology

by Steven P. Mueller, editor. Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2005.

Explains Lutheran Christian beliefs in more depth than what we have in Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation. The author is a professor at a LCMS University.

