

Truth, Goodness and Beauty

Discussion Questions

1. "Beauty will save the world." Dostoevsky, a great Russian writer, once wrote these words. What does it mean for beauty to save the world? Are you part of this mission too? How so? Do you agree or disagree with Dostoevsky? Explain and give examples.
2. Is beauty objective or subjective -- does it depend on the person looking at it or is it beautiful in and of itself? Do you have to learn what is beautiful or ugly? Discuss.
3. Do you regularly pause to notice the beautiful things around you? Brainstorm together some ways that you can regularly pause and notice the beauty around you.
4. "What is truth?" Compare Pilate's infamous line with Pope Benedict's quote from his book *Introduction to Christianity* "Christian faith lives on the discovery that not only is there such a thing as objective meaning but that this meaning knows me and loves me..." and Jesus says in the Gospels, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." With these thoughts in mind, how are we to understand truth? For the Christian, how is truth both universal and personal? Discuss and give examples.

Activity for Class

Find the poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins and read it aloud in class. Create a collage either using images from travel and nature focused magazines or use an application like Canva or PowerPoint to display examples to illustrate the poem. If you have a class that loves art, have them draw or paint instead. Take time to unpack the beauty they illustrated. Also note how they as humans are able to co-create with God -- only humans feel the need and have the capacity to comment, wonder, and draw this beauty and share it with others.

Activity for Home

Start a nature journal. Have your group members collect nature items from outside and place them on a table. Put on calm, beautiful music in the background. Children of all ages will need your help noticing the details of the objects. Point out the color, the shape, and, by narrating, try to help them to notice the things they may have overlooked at first glance. After you have talked together about the objects and their details, then give each person some colored pencils or crayons and have them sketch the object. This is a great activity to do alongside the students.

Resources:

- Article: "Educating to Truth, Beauty and Goodness"
<https://cardinalnewmansociety.org/educating-to-truth-beauty-and-goodness-2/>
- Video: Ascension Presents Video with Matt Fradd "The Importance of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn2gyPgFqVA>
- Poem: "God's Grandeur" by Gerard Manley Hopkins - Classic Poetry with Jonathan Roumie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqJVa0tMnY>
- Video: Bishop Barron on Evangelizing Through Beauty
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBMOWZFpZX0>