Our youngest son, Benjamin, age 5, is quite a deep thinker. I often am taken aback by the profound depth of his questions about spiritual matters. I find it interesting that he also has no problem talking about death, dying, or old age. His curiosity often leads to some interesting conversations.

One day on the drive from his preschool we talked about church and heaven. Benjamin asked me numerous questions about what heaven would look like. And he wanted to know all about the new bodies we get when we arrive there.

“If you die as a kid, do you get a kid or a grownup body in heaven?” he asked, following up with a series of rapid-fire questions. “Do we get to pick our age in heaven? Do we get to pick our new-body age? How will people recognize our new bodies in heaven since they are perfect?”

After much discussion, I summarized the topic of our conversation: “That’s why the gospel and knowing Jesus is called the good news. The fact that we can be part of God’s forever family and live in heaven is good news.”

Without pause, Benjamin asked, “If that’s the good news mom, then what is the bad news?” Now I had never before had anyone—young or old—ask me about the “bad news.” But I appreciated the logic he had applied to the topic, and it really made me think.

“Well, the bad news,” I answered, “is that people who die and don’t know Jesus will spend eternity in hell, separated from God and His love.” Benjamin replied, “That is bad news, Mom!” Whew!

He was satisfied with my answer. And I was glad that we had settled the issue. Or so I thought.

God has used that conversation, as it has been on my mind ever since. As Christians, we talk about sharing the “good news” with the poor as commanded in Scripture. Let us move beyond talk. People do not have to live this life aimlessly and without purpose.

All this world seems to offer is the “bad news.” Let us use our time, resources, and talents to share the good news of the gospel and reach out in love to others. And let us take time to listen to our children’s questions and learn from them.

Andrea is the secretary for Great Commission Women in the Western Pennsylvania District.