



# Good News for families

March 2021

## *Prone to Destroy*

Children are prone to destroy. This is just a fact. When my oldest was 20 months old, she (accidentally) broke a neighbor's lamp. My second two children have (not accidentally) broken their fair share of household items, too. Even innocently, most little ones love knocking down block towers, dismantling toys, picking the neighbor's flowers—you name it.

It's not just children. Humans are generally prone to destroy. We break laws, damage relationships, even harm our neighbors with our words and deeds. Ever since our fall into sin, we've been torching everything in sight. We're like King Midas gone horribly wrong. Everything we touch turns to—well, not gold—it turns to death.

Our Lord knew this. Maybe this is one reason He decided that He'd bring about the salvation of the world through death. He knew He could count on us to go along with the plan. That we would have no trouble making short work of destroying the Christ that He sent. In John's Gospel, we hear that, just after cleansing the temple, Jesus had quite the conversation:

So the Jews said to Him [Jesus], "What sign do You show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking about the temple of His body. When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken." (John 2:18–22)

Temples, bodies, we are bent on destruction. Even our children, those sweet little sinners that they are, are riddled with original sin that urges them to tear down rather than build up.


Not so with Christ. Not only could He handle the destruction heaped upon Him on the cross but He could also rebuild. Not just *could*—He *desired* to make all things new. He is

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at the same time like us and unlike us. He took on our form but was without sin. He willingly endured both the destruction of His body and separation from God the Father, turning what we meant for evil into good.

Rather than tearing down bridges, Christ became the bridge from us to God, making us His perfect children. Because of that, we get new life, a new chance—we finally get to feel what it's like to be part of the building up, not the tearing down. He also lets us play a part in the rebuilding by doing good works through us. His Spirit moves us to care for our neighbor and build him up rather than

tear him down by breaking the Fifth Commandment. And the Seventh. And the Eighth. Oh, just all of them.

We still make messes. Big ones. We are at the same time saint and sinner. That urge to destroy is a constant tickle, and we give in to it more than we care to admit. Thank God for His admonition, for His command to confess our sins and receive absolution. While we're inclined to destroy, He is inclined to rebuild through the forgiveness of sins. He just can't help Himself. Everything He touches turns to life. 

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## Recommended Reading

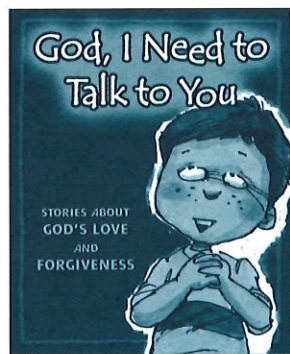
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### *God, I Need to Talk to You: Stories about God's Love and Forgiveness*

by Concordia Publishing House

Growing up can be difficult, especially when trying to learn right from wrong. But God asks us to come to Him in prayer about everything, especially when we're growing up and learning.

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