

The Author's Answers to the Questions for Adult Reflection



My Summer

1. How is a promise a present?

With a promise—that you keep—you give yourself.

2. Do you know the names of any other moons?

Every full moon has name. There are various lists to choose from. These are the ones I choose: January: wolf, February: snow, March: sap, April: Pink, May: Flower, June: strawberry, July: Thunder, August: red, September: harvest (or corn, if the full moon closest to the first day of Fall falls in October), October: hunter, November: beaver, and December: cold.

3. How do you feel about storms?

I love them. Didn't you read "A Winter Storm"?

4. Why is it notable that John's birthday is June 24?

June 24 is John the Baptist day. John the Baptist day is the Church's celebration of the beginning Summer when the days actually begin to get shorter. This celebration is named for John who had to become less so that Jesus could become more. Jesus' big day is Christmas when the days begin to get longer.

5. Why is a pogo stick a better than a video game?

If you don't know, you have already spent far too much time in front of screens.

6. What are some other points a preacher might make from the top of a ladder?

We are all far from the kingdom of God, in other words, once we are changed and now can see God, we will see that the differences between us here were not nearly so great as we had thought.

We are called to be detached from history, in other words, we can look at the sin and silliness of the present just as we look back at the sin and silliness the human race has already surpassed.

7. "You're not free if you don't do anything with your freedom." How would you react to this statement?

What I would like you to do is to turn off the television.

8. Why do kids like to make forts?

To make something, of course, and to create our own space.

9. Why was crossing the river the best part of the kid's hike to the home of Uncle Fred?

They had to do something original.

10. What are some of the major differences between religions that you know about?

There are many. And that's why those who profess no faith because "it's the same God" show that they don't know very much about God.

11. What is your experience during the blessing of the bread and the wine?

Humility.

12. What do you think about the father's answer to John about the question of hell?

He was absolutely correct.

13. What might have been the religious point of the story of the stars and the sand?

God is big. And this same God knows you, loves you, and is guiding your life down to the most minute detail.

14. The story of what one learns from the seat of an airplane is really about certain dynamisms that "distort" our perception of reality. Are you aware of any others?

There are too many to list here. And more than a few are the product of television.

15. Why were the Flores' OK "because we always see them in church?"

They had their faith before they needed it.

16. Why is it hard to speak to someone after he or she has suffered a loss?

We feel helpless to take away their pain. (But we don't have to take away people pain. We just have to share our faith, and let people heal in God's good time.)

17. Why is it important to keep “faith in front”?

Because faith changes how we see everything. (If you would like to read about how the father of the family learned to keep faith in front, go to this author’s website, click on “Check out The Faith Kit,” and then click on “A Day in the Life, a story about how to use The Faith Kit.”)

18. What does it mean to Love the Year?

Please go to this author’s website, click on “Check out The Faith Kit,” and then click on “Love the Year” so you can read about this wonderful rule of life.

19. How did John’s promise to his father benefit John?

John promised not to give his father trouble about going to church. In the story we see that John has gained more and more from going to church.

20. The story proposes to teach you something with almost every entry. Why is this a good lesson about life?

If we are open to it, we can learn something every day. John did.

21. What was especially good about the last entry in John’s journal?

See the first entry in John’s journal. Especially when we have faith, no trial is so difficult as otherwise it might seem.

