

## **Q&A**

### **“Fr. Alex, when it rains, is it God crying?”**

I’ve heard this beautiful explanation for rain since I was a little boy. I think it is a way to explain how sometimes God is very sad for us: that we make Him sad when he hurt each other, when we don’t pray to Him, and when we don’t treat our family, friends and everyone we meet with love, understanding and respect. I’m sure these things definitely disappoint God and make Him sad.

But here’s another way to look at rain—what happens when it rains? The flowers grow strong, our lawns turn green, we and the animals get fresh drinking water, and sometimes we even get incredible rainbows (after the great flood, God showed Noah a rainbow as a symbol that His anger had ended). Rain is life-giving, and this is a blessing in our lives.

When I talk to my daughter about rain—she’s asked me this question before—I’ve used all these ideas. In the end, I tell them that whenever it rains, we should give thanks because God is blessing us with a great treasure—but that we should also let it remind us of those things we sometimes do to make God sad. Both ideas are important!