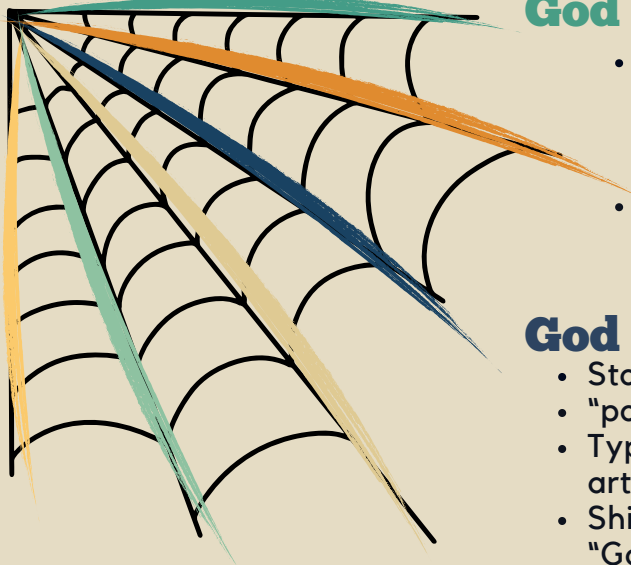


## Session 3: Anchor Strands: God is Good, Powerful, & Just

"...when it comes to their web of faith, a child can first anchor to a God who is good, and then, as they grow, can add the nuance of God's compassion or God's wisdom, or any other characteristic that is both an expression of goodness and a trait of its own. They aren't anchoring to goodness and not love. God is good because God is love, and God is love because God is good." p.91



### God is Good

- God's goodness shown in the very beginning of the Bible in the Story of Creation: God is a life-giver, humans are made in God's image, God delights in creation, God rests
- Practices to try: creation care, bedtime, school drop off, bumpy days, delighting in nature, sabbath

### God is Powerful

- Stories: Exodus, Jesus Feeding the Crowd
- "power invites us to know the person." p.125
- Types of Prayer: category, breath, moving, posture, art
- Shifting prayers away from God as magic genie to "God, please do XYZ, and if you don't, please help me know I'm not alone"

### God is Just

- Stories: Jubilee, Jesus overturning tables in the temple
- Telling the truth/practice of confession
- "Whose story is being told, and whose is missing?" p.150

## Contractual vs. Unconditional

Shifting our understanding of WHY God demonstrates God's power can be unsettling. We all love a superhero!

When have you prayed prayers that went "unanswered," or prayers that did not yield the healing you longed for? Does this shift help make sense of that prayer process for you? Why or why not?



## Tension

These particular strands do often feel in tension with one another.

- If God is good and just, how could God tolerate evil? Did God create evil?
- If God is powerful, good, and just, why doesn't God just eradicate evil?
- While we may allow "why do bad things happen to good people?" to go unanswered, "why do bad things happen to people God loves?" is harder to let linger

How do you reconcile these tensions? Does the image of a web help?