

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



Plans in the Breaking

QUESTIONS FOR CUBS

NOTE TO PARENTS/TEACHERS:

The goal of this questions-and-answers section is to initiate interaction between you and your kids. Please do not just read the questions and answers to your kids. These answers are given for you at an adult level to think about and to process. Once that is accomplished, you can then translate them into appropriate answers for your kids.

LESSON

God causes all things to work together for good

KEY VERSE

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Rom. 8:28)

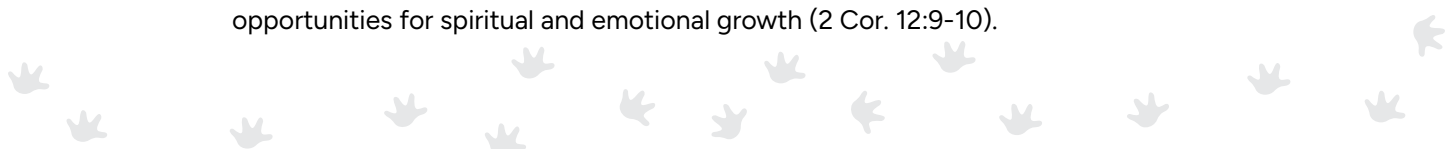
EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: Where was Paw Paw Chuck hoping to spend the day?
A: *At Blossom Lake*
- Q: What did Officer Hunt say he was setting out to do?
A: *Take the Wilderness Rangers on a troop campout at Twin Falls*
- Q: What was the emergency at the hotel?
A: *A man was trapped in the elevator*
- Q: What was wrong with the fisherman whom Paw Paw Chuck and Staci discovered?
A: *He had badly broken his leg and was in need of a doctor*
- Q: What did Staci use to signal the scout troop?
A: *Her broken compact mirror*

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: When things go wrong, like they did for Staci and Paw Paw Chuck, does it mean that God is angry?

- A: No, it doesn't. Sometimes things go wrong simply because we live in a broken, sinful, fallen world. And we do have to deal with the consequences of our own sin. But sometimes God allows hard things to come into our lives for other reasons. Difficulties can teach us to depend on Him, help us to focus on things that matter, and keep us from things that are not the best for us. As frustrating as they may be, difficulties are not necessarily "bad" things from God (Jas. 1:2-4). They can turn out to be great opportunities for spiritual and emotional growth (2 Cor. 12:9-10).



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HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: If I disobey God regularly, will I experience difficulties that I would not have had if I were in a good relationship with Him?

A: Yes. Part of the reason God gave us commandments, laws, and principles was so that we would avoid unnecessary pain, suffering, and confusion. Life will become more difficult when we rebel against God and do whatever we want. Remember, some of life's difficulties are opportunities from God that are meant to help us grow, but some are simply the consequences of sin (Prov. 5:21-22).

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. Have you ever had a day when nothing went right? How did you handle it? Did anything good come out of it?
2. Read the key verse above. Can you name some good things God has done in your life or in the lives of your friends or family? Have you taken time to thank God for the good things He's done in your life and in the lives of the people you love?
3. According to the key verse, who will experience all things working together for good? What do you think it means to be "called according to His purpose"? Do you think God makes this promise only to Christians? Why, or why not?



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

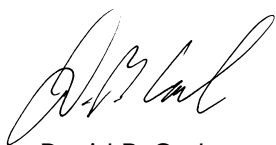
"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

In the previous episode, *A Pirate's Life*, we looked at why we should trust God enough to obey Him. To obey God because we trust Him means our actions are the result of our beliefs. In this episode, *Plans in the Breaking*, we will look at the other side of that coin: we also need our reactions to be based on our beliefs. I assume the readers of this piece are adults, so let's avoid all pretences. I am about to state a truth that makes many Christians shudder. Are you ready? Here it comes: *The Christian life is difficult and immensely complicated*. It is easy to get off-track; it is easy to be deceived; and it is hard to avoid using religion to suit our selfish purposes. Pursuing the life Christ wants us to live is hard work, but it is far better than living in ignorant depravity. Sure, even a child can understand the salvation story, but there is also much about this story that adults will never understand until we face Christ in heaven. That's the nature of deep truth.

Many Christians strongly believe that following Christ should result in a pleasant, more comfortable life than we would have if we did not follow Him. This is not true. Following Christ does not make our lives easier; it makes the inevitable struggles of life meaningful. We will face difficulties—even tragedies. That's just the way it is in a fallen world.

We are once again dealing with an issue of world views. How do we make sense of the struggles of life? Many today hold a world view that uses chaos to explain the struggles of life. They believe that there is no pattern, no making sense of anything; in other words, life is random. This belief is more prevalent than you might think. Another world view avoids the problem completely and simply advocates getting all of the pleasure possible out of life before death. This is not a particularly elegant philosophy, but it is very popular. If you hold to either of these notions, they will strongly direct both your actions and your reactions. You will be changed, and it will not be pretty.

Bad things really do happen to everyone, though to some more than others. This demands a philosophical response. The Bible offers one. Life has a distinct pattern, and God is the designer. We, as believers, are a part of His complicated plan. Because we have made Christ the Lord of our lives, everything that happens to us happens only because our loving Father has allowed it. That does not mean everything will be easy. But when tragedies occur, we can rest in the fact that God has planned to use them for our good since the beginning of time. In times like these, faith in His character will hold you together. He loves you more than you will ever imagine. He is neither indifferent to nor amused by your pain. If God is going to allow a Christian—one of His children—to suffer, be confident that it is only for the very best of reasons. If we can take this truth and truly believe it, our actions will be profoundly changed. Our confidence in God will allow us to stand courageously and boldly in the face of the difficult times ahead. If we let this belief seep down into our souls, our reactions will be changed to more closely resemble the reactions of Christ. Through action and repetition, our beliefs in God will change us from the inside out. That is part of the transformation that Christ promised (Rom. 12:1-2), and we need it so badly.



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