

A Good Foundation

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

We must build our lives on God—He is our firm foundation

KEY VERSE

"The righteous has an everlasting foundation." (Prov. 10:25)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

Q: What is Paw Paw Chuck helping C.J. and Staci to build?

A: *Their clubhouse, "The Fort"*

Q: Who has a bad eye?

A: *C.J. has poor vision in his left eye*

Q: What colour is C.J.'s bad eye?

A: *Blue*

Q: Who is Staci?

A: *C.J.'s friend*

Q: What happens to C.J. and Staci's first attempt at building a clubhouse without using the plans?

A: *The clubhouse falls apart*

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: If God is the foundation that we should build our lives on, what are some of the poor foundations on which people often build their lives?

A: *Some people choose to pursue wealth, fame, power, or pleasure. At first glance, these foundations may look good enough to build our lives on, but if we look more closely we will see that the pursuit of these things will result in emptiness and hopelessness (Eccl. 2:1-11). A foundation is the most important part of a building. It must be firm, strong, and long-lasting. As Christians, we must build our spiritual foundations on God (Isa. 28:16). He will never fail.*

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Q: What are some commonly held false beliefs about God?

A: You might be surprised when you hear some people talk about who they think God is and how they feel about Him. Their thoughts might be wildly different from your own. You might even discover that what they believe about God is absolutely untrue! For example, some people think that God is angry with us all the time. Some believe that He doesn't care about us at all and has left us alone to live our lives the best we can. These ideas couldn't be further from the truth, but many people still believe them. God wants us to know Him, and He helped us discover who He is by giving us His Word. The Bible calls God "a rock" and "a firm foundation" (Ps. 18:2; 2 Tim. 2:19). We can build our lives with God as our foundation because we can be confident that He loves us and wants what is best for us (Lam. 3:22-23). Whenever you are confused by what other people say about God, you can always find God's truth in the Bible.

Q: The cubs built their clubhouse without a plan, and it fell apart. Could we build our faith using a plan to avoid the same kind of disaster?

A: The Bible contains the only plan that we can trust. We need to know and follow its truth. Through Scripture, we learn that God desires for us to live a life that is full of wisdom, truth, and hope (Jn 17:17).

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. Have you ever tried to build something like a model airplane or a science project? What do you think would happen if you threw the instructions away and then tried to build it?
2. God has put people in your life like your parents and teachers to help you make good choices. But even though good advice is right in front of you, you can still make bad decisions. Can you think of a wrong choice you made lately? How did you learn from your mistake?
3. Just as you are growing physically and mentally, you must also grow spiritually. Knowing God and loving Him are important parts of growing spiritually. What are some ways you can learn more about God?
4. Paw Paw Chuck helped the group build a tree house on a proper foundation. In your life, who helps you to be a better person?

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

A Good Foundation is our pilot episode. As such, we focus on introducing the characters and establishing the town of Wildwood. The goal of this story is to illustrate the results of building on a poor foundation and consequently to encourage listeners to think through the entire building process—from the foundation up. The right foundation and the right plans result in a solid structure that can be trusted. This is true when building a tree house, and it is also true when building a solid foundation in the spiritual life.

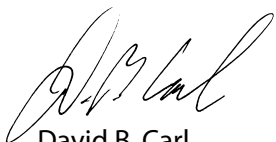
I believe that even school-aged children are capable of learning theology. Actually, kids that age have been learning it all along. They can't help it. Every day a child must somehow make sense out of a complicated and sometimes chaotic world. By the time kids reach third grade, they have already developed a notion of the world around them and, therefore, some understanding of the kind of God who made it—assuming they have been taught that there is a God.

My goal with *Paws & Tales* is to teach that God is in control, has a plan, and loves His children very much. If kids understand those truths, they are off to a good start. If they do not grasp those basic truths, they will likely experience fear and eventual hopelessness down the road. I want to help kids build a foundation of solid theology at an early age so they can avoid having to rebuild from a shaky foundation that was built on bad theology.

Paw Paw Chuck serves as our mentor character. He is not the centre of the *Paws & Tales* universe, nor does he appear in every episode. On the contrary, *Paws & Tales* is centred around The Club—and more specifically, around C.J. I did not want to develop only one “all-wise” character the cubs could look to for help. Wildwood is home to a number of characters the cubs can go to for guidance and help. This group includes their parents; Miss Harbor, the schoolteacher; Mrs. Collins; and others.

C.J. has one bright blue eye, in which he is nearly blind. It is one thing to have a weak eye, but C.J.'s eye is obvious to anyone he meets. I have chosen to use this device to represent any perceived or real flaw that any kid might have to endure. I think any kid who is asked would tell you that he or she has a terrible flaw. This is a burden C.J. will live with all his life. What he does not know yet is that this flaw will, in the future, become a point of God's blessing for him and for others (see episode 27, *The Gift*). Admittedly, this is a pretty serious storyline for kids, but they think about these kinds of issues whether we talk to them about them or not.

Future episodes address unrepentant sin, greed, legalism, forgiveness, and an understanding that evil exists in the world. *Paws & Tales* was created not to be just a safe, fun, and entertaining program, though it is all of those. It was created primarily to illustrate biblical, spiritual truth to kids and their parents.



David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales