

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

Prayer

Key Verse

“And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.
(2 Corinthians 6:18)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

- Q: What did Staci wish she was?
A: *A princess*
- Q: The girls were getting together to do what?
A: *Have a sleepover*
- Q: What did Staci tell the King about Ned?
A: *She explained that the water was rising on Ned’s house, threatening to wash it away.*
- Q: What test was Gooz hoping to get a good grade on?
A: *Her spelling test*
- Q: What did Staci’s mom say Gooz needed in her life?
A: *Discipline*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

Q: Ned’s house was in big trouble. Why did God allow the flood to be a problem in the first place?

A: We often think that what we need most in life is our own comfort or for things to go better. In reality, what we need most is more dependence on God and a closer relationship with Him. We need this more than we need air to breathe and water to drink (Philippians 4:11–13, 19; Matthew 4:4). In a situation like Ned’s, God would probably have dozens of reasons, even hundreds of reasons, for why this hardship is worthwhile. It brought Staci closer to God. It helped Gooz understand that she needed to take responsibility for her grades. It caused Gooz’s mom to spend more time with Gooz. In this instance, it also brought about a better home for Ned and his family. But in almost all cases, the spiritual benefits of tough situations far outweigh the physical ones.

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Q: What was the nature of the King's attitude toward Staci?

A: He was utterly delighted that she came to him. He loved it!

Q: What is the nature of God's attitude toward you?

A: He is eagerly waiting for you to talk with Him (Jeremiah 29:11–14).

Q: What things should you be afraid of when approaching God in prayer?

A: There is nothing a humble child of God can accidentally say in prayer that will send God into a rage. Think of a toddler spilling his juice on the tile just as he is running into the arms of his father. The father thinks nothing of the spill! Just run into the arms of God. As you grow, you will learn to pray and read the Bible better, but that will never make God love you more than He does right now (Zephaniah 3:17; Psalm 118:1–4).

Q: I have prayed for important things, and God did not answer me. Why?

A: Some things are a mystery to us. But remember that God is not angry with you, nor is He waiting for you to use the right words, like magic, before He will respond. God sometimes says yes. He sometimes says no. He sometimes says wait. And there are times when nothing seems to happen at all. At times like that we must resist the temptation to think things that we know are untrue about God, such as, *He doesn't care*, *He must not love me*, or *He doesn't really want what is best for me*. God will even allow us to cry to Him about our disappointments. When you go through times of uncertainty (and they will come to everyone) rely on what you know to be true—that God is our Good Shepherd who deeply loves us (Psalm 23). Trust that He knows what He is doing.

"I" Check (*Personal Application*)

1. What would you do if you were a prince or princess?
2. The King told Staci that he was always there for her. In what ways do we know God is always with us?
3. The King did not want to give Gooz an A on her test. Can you think of one reason why it might be bad if you got *everything* you wanted?
4. Staci prayed about Ned's house and for Gooz to do well on her spelling test. What things have you prayed about?
5. Has God ever answered one of your prayers in a way you didn't expect?

Director's Notes

This is one of my favorite episodes. I love the scenes in which Staci and the King lovingly chat about her concerns. I think this is a wonderful picture of how God longs to hear from us. Prayer is a mystery. We can learn to understand some truths about prayer, but there is a point at which we have to let go and trust our loving heavenly Father to do for us what He knows to be best.

One of the things we need to understand is that God reacts to our prayers. Our prayers matter for us and for others. Certain things will only happen after they have been prayed for. For example, in James 1:5–7 it is clear that God will give us wisdom when we ask for it. The logic then is that if we do not ask, we will not receive it from Him. This flow of logic leads us to the nature of prayer, which is where the mystery begins.

Another truth about prayer is that God loves for us to pray to Him. He longs for us to climb up on His lap and just chat. However, Staci experienced yet another truth about prayer. She learned that God will unapologetically refuse to give in to our requests if what we are asking for is not the very best for us. This is perhaps one of the most wondrous truths about prayer. It is not an impersonal force that we can learn to harness and then possibly misuse or abuse. It is a personal conversation with a Parent who will not allow us to use prayer to do harm to ourselves or others, even unwittingly. God will ignore the silly and selfish requests we make and give us what we should have prayed for but didn't. Praise God!

Prayer is a deep mystery, but there is much we *can* know about it. God loves for us to pray, He loves to answer our prayers, and He will even protect us from ourselves. *Paws & Tales* covers other facets of this important subject in future episodes, but for now it is enough to know that we can cuddle up and talk to the Creator of the universe . . . *that* makes Him smile.



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