

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

Obedience

Key Verse

He is on the path of life who heeds instruction,
But he who ignores reproof goes astray. (Proverbs 10:17)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

- Q: Where are C.J., Staci, and Gooz playing?
A: *In the Collins Mansion*
- Q: C.J. and Staci cover Gooz with what?
A: *A helmet*
- Q: Mahdavi and Rick are what kind of animals?
A: *Rats*
- Q: What happened to the bookcase?
A: *C.J. bumped into it, and it crashed down*
- Q: Paw Paw Chuck scolded the kids for playing with what?
A: *Things that didn't belong to them*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

Q: C.J., Staci, and Gooz got out of hand playing with the swords and armor, and Paw Paw Chuck scolded them for it. What was their reaction to the scolding?

A: They started immediately to rationalize and make excuses to explain why their misbehavior was not so bad.

Q: Rick was having very much the same experience as the cubs. Why did he disobey Professor Mahdavi?

A: Rick didn't believe that the Professor was a reliable authority. He thought he was capable on his own to determine what was safe and what was dangerous.

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Q: What was Professor Mahdavi's response?

A: He explained that, being an adult, he knew many things that Rick did not. Rick needed to learn to respect the experience of those who are older and to trust that what the Professor told him was correct (Leviticus 19:32).

Q: Why did C.J., Staci, and Gooz continue to play?

A: Because they wanted to do what was fun instead of what was best. They did not think they should have been scolded in the first place, so they did not take the correction to heart.

Q: Rick was told to stay where he was. He was tempted to jump to the other bookcase but he didn't. Why didn't he?

A: Rick wisely heeded correction, and as a result, it saved his life (Proverbs 15:31).

Q: Paw Paw Chuck scolded the cubs and Gooz for a reason. What was it?

A: He knew that if they continued what they were doing then bad things would happen, and he wanted to protect them. When an adult does it correctly, a scolding is a gift to the child, and he or she is wise to receive it as a gift and learn from it (Proverbs 6:23; 13:18; Hebrews 12:11).

"I" Check (*Personal Application*)

1. C.J., Staci, and Gooz were playing with things that didn't belong to them. Why is it important to respect other people's things?
2. Has a parent or teacher ever had to tell you not to play with something dangerous? Why do you think they told you that?
3. How did Rick disobey Professor Mahdavi? What are some reasons why it is important to obey your parents and teachers?
4. When was the last time you were punished for something? How did you feel? Have you changed your behavior since being punished?
5. What kinds of things does God consider to be disobedience? What does God want us to do when we have done wrong?

Director's Notes

In the episode titled "Correction Course," I attempted to explain that though misbehaving is certainly a problem, ignoring the correction that goes with punishment is much worse. When I was a junior-high director for a church, I wanted very much for my kids to learn to accept correction. Many boys assume that resisting correction is a sign of manhood. In fact, some kids tend to think that anyone who administers any form of correction is an idiot. In truth, this belief is proof that these kids are what the Bible calls "fools."

God acknowledges that because we are humans in a fallen world, we will all make mistakes. He has told us to listen to wise counsel in order to learn, grow, and mature. He has also told us how to ask for forgiveness when we fail. We must listen to those who correct us. Even if they don't correct us in the best way, we are wise to learn what we can. A child who does not learn to accept correction may one day turn into the second-most dangerous person in the world—a teenage kid who says, "No one tells me what to do!" He may then become the *most* dangerous person in the world—an adult who says the same thing. The future for this kind of fool holds much unnecessary suffering and destruction.

God desires to save us from just this sort of foolishness, but we have to be open to His correction as well as the correction of others. In this episode, the disaster of the bookcase was clearly the result of the refusal to accept correction. The kids could have been hurt, priceless objects were broken, and the trust that Mrs. Collins had in the cubs and Goos could have been seriously damaged. Rick learned his lesson early on, and because of it, he avoided personal injury as well as the destruction of all of the work Professor Mahdavi had done over the years. Good correction is a blessing to those who will listen.



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