

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 Sees the Heart

Key Verse

“God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
(1 Samuel 16:7)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

- Q: Captain Reginald told Officer Hunt his ship was supposed to pick up a large shipment of what?
A: *Gold*
- Q: Miss Harbor said Matilda was handy at doing what sorts of things?
A: *Plumbing, carpentry, and auto repair*
- Q: Who stole the gold from the Shiloh?
A: *William*
- Q: Who was William’s accomplice?
A: *Mr. Montgomery*
- Q: Who ended up stealing from William and Montgomery?
A: *Matilda and Slippers*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

Q: Our desires can be very powerful and, at times, nearly irresistible. How do we know when to follow them and when to resist them?

A: We all have a sin nature, even Christians. Because of this sin nature we are instinctively driven to satisfy all our desires, believing that doing so will lead to happiness and satisfaction. Another symptom of our sin nature is that many of our desires are corrupt and will cause us harm if pursued. Because of these two facts, we can’t be certain whether a certain desire is good for us or totally disastrous. That is why God has given us the Bible—to give us laws and principles that help us know the difference between what is good and right and what is sinful and damaging. To reject this instruction is like being in the desert and throwing away your map and compass.

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Q: It seems that most everyone lies and deceives others in order to get by in life. If I don't do some of it I'm afraid I'll miss out on some good things. Will I?

A: Now this is where some deeper thinking is important. Scripture tells us in James 1:17 that "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." And Psalm 34:9–10 says:

O fear the Lord, you His saints;
For to those who fear Him there is no want.
The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;
But they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing.

These verses do not say that you will get all that you desire. They do say that God will give you the right things at the right time. If you lie or deceive in order to get something that God does not want you to have at that time, then you are in danger of all kinds of consequences. God cannot be deceived or lied to; you cannot fool Him. It is so much better to be in a good relationship with Him and learn to trust that He will give you the good things that you need.

"I" Check (*Personal Application*)

1. Mystery stories are fun to try to solve. But in the end, they all come down to the same principle—the bad guy always loses and crime never pays. Knowing that, why do you think some people still turn to a life of crime? What do you think criminals expect to get out of living that way?
2. We may never come across a story like this one in real life, but we probably will encounter someone who appears to be something he or she is not. God sees past outward appearances—what people say or how they try to make themselves seem to others. Instead, He is able to look deep within to see what is in our thoughts—what are our true motivations and desires. We may not be able to read other people's thoughts, but we can learn from God's example that what's inside is much more important than the way we appear from the outside. Have you ever misjudged someone because you only considered his or her outer appearance? How did you discover the truth about that person?
3. God gives us the ability to be like detectives when it comes to evaluating people and situations. God gives us discernment. Look up the word *discernment* in the dictionary. Then read Proverbs 2:1–15 and list the benefits of pursuing godly wisdom and discernment.

Director's Notes

As a bit of trivia, this is the only episode ever recorded that did not include any of the principal *Paws & Tales* characters—Staci, C.J., or Paw Paw Chuck. The principle at hand is that the hidden things of our hearts are clearly seen by God. This is such an obvious statement that we tend to fly right by it because we think we know it already. Knowledge is different from wisdom. Having a lot of knowledge is like having a lot of paint colors on your palette. Having wisdom is like being able to use those colors to paint a beautiful picture. If you were to take your knowledge of the fact that that God clearly sees what's in our hearts and add wisdom to it, you could come to these life-changing conclusions.

- Because God is always watching and knows the condition of my heart, all of my thoughts and actions have spiritual ramifications, both bad and good. For instance, to deceive, steal, or otherwise sin against others damages my relationship with the Creator of the universe. To do that would constitute the very dumbest thing I could possibly do.
- Because God is always watching and knows the condition of my heart, I know that He is deeply interested in what I think and do. He would only be interested for one of two reasons. One, He is afraid of what I might do, and He is watching so He can punish me when I step out of line. That, of course, is wrong. Or two, He is always watching because He is in love with His children. He is watching so that, if I let Him, He can guide my steps and heal me, transform me, and use me to minister to others.

Our God sees deeply into our hearts because He loves us deeply. Only a fool would run from the life of purpose, protection, and love God offers.



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