

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

Putting Others First

Key Verse

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

- Q: What does Sammy say Tiffany will do if he doesn't carry her books?
A: *Tiffany will have Sammy's father fired from his job as Mr. Rockler's chauffeur*
- Q: What does Mr. Rockler offer C.J.'s father?
A: *A job as one of Mr. Rockler's attorneys*
- Q: What is C.J.'s plan to deal with Tiffany?
A: *To confront her in the school yard and embarrass her*
- Q: What does C.J. decide to do instead?
A: *He offers to carry Tiffany's books because he does not want to threaten his father's job with Mr. Rockler*
- Q: Who is put in charge of handling Mr. Rockler's staff issues?
A: *Theo Brown*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

- Q: What is the definition of humility?
- A: As far as Scripture is concerned, the person with a humble spirit is God-centered rather than self-centered (Isaiah 66:2). He or she understands who we are in relation to God and is more concerned with what God thinks and wants than anything else. Therefore, a humble heart is focused on God, boasting only of His righteous character and good works (1 Peter 2:9–10). And a truly humble person is selfless, always putting others first.

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Now, be careful. Many Christians have the misguided impression that real humility comes from focusing on how little they are worth in comparison to God or others. They maximize their faults, refuse to acknowledge their strengths, and belittle their accomplishments, all in the name of appearing humble to the outside world. This behavior is just as dishonest and wrong as prideful, selfish boasting. Both are self-focused and destructive.

Q: Is humility something that you just have (or don't have), or is it something that a person can learn?

A: Humility can absolutely be learned. To be humble, we need to have a correct view of God, recognizing Him as our Hope, our Protector, and the Giver of all good gifts. And we need to be grateful for His work in our lives and depend on Him to care for our needs. In fact, the Bible commands us, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" (James 4:10 NIV). This right perspective is key to understanding the Bible and experiencing the promises it contains.

"I" Check (*Personal Application*)

1. Tiffany is clearly a very mean person. Hopefully you will never know someone as mean and selfish as Tiffany. How do you define selfishness? In what ways have you ever acted selfishly? What did you do to correct that behavior?
2. Read Philippians 2:1–11. Here the apostle Paul paints a beautiful picture of true humility. Jesus is fully God, but He set aside all of the glory and honor He deserves in order to show us what a true servant looks like. Why do you think it is so important to consider others before ourselves?
3. What are some of the things the world says we should go after? Make a list of them. Maybe you said money, fame, or even "bling." Now make a list of the traits that Paul says we are supposed to have as Christians. Compare the lists. What do you notice?
4. Tough Questions: If we are to serve others before ourselves, does this mean that we should offer to carry Tiffany's books too? How can we deal with a person like Tiffany and still show Christian humility? Does being a Christian mean that we should allow people to take advantage of us?

Director's Notes

Sometimes the best way to make a point is by illustrating its opposite. That's usually more fun, anyway. Humility is the point in this episode, so we started with its opposite—we started with pride. Pride is the opposite of faith and humility, which are inseparable. Faith means we are trying to think the way Jesus thought and believe the things Jesus believed, all the while trusting God to provide what we need (Hebrews 11:1). Humility, in its essence, is treating others better than ourselves, relying on our faith to believe that God will do his part (Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 5:5).

Pride spends no thought or concern on what God wants. It seeks to get, by hook or by crook, things that can only come from God. Let me explain. I believe that we were made with an innate and desperate need for the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). These fruit are not the dessert. They are the meal. We deeply hunger for them in order to have a meaningful life. The problem arises when we try to get them on our own or when we confuse them with something less.

Let's start with the latter. When a person dedicates himself or herself to the acquisition of wealth, he or she doesn't really want money. That person wants the things that he or she thinks will come with it: security, fame, and power. But these are cheap imitations of peace, love, and joy. These imitations are, in the end, unsatisfying, and they cause many new problems of their own. Pride also attempts to capture the true things—the fruit of the Spirit. But they cannot be taken by force. They must be given by the Spirit, so they are blessings, the fruit of our pursuit of Christlikeness. We can certainly have peace, joy, and love without security, fame, or power; it happens all the time in God's kingdom. On the other hand, we can strive under our own strength for security, fame, and power. The question then becomes, "Why would we settle for such a cheap imitation of what we really need?"



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