

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 Is Always with Us, Working out His Plan for Us

Key Verse

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

Q: Why do C.J. and Staci decide to play in the basement of the Collins Mansion?

A: *It's too hot to play outside*

Q: What does Timothy Owl say he is doing in the basement?

A: *Hunting rats*

Q: What are the names of the rats who live behind the walls?

A: *Professor Mahdavi and Rick*

Q: What do C.J. and Staci discover in the basement?

A: *A cylinder player*

Q: What does Timothy Owl try to do to the rats?

A: *He tries to trap them by starting a fire*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

Q: Timothy Owl was trying to keep the cubs away from the cylinder player because he knew that it would eventually lead them to a great truth. There really are people who do not want us to know the truth. Why is that, and what are we to do when we encounter them?

A: Enemies of the truth may have any number of motives (Matthew 5:10–12; Luke 21:12–19). They may have a financial stake that they do not want to lose, or they may have a position of authority that will be threatened if the truth gets out. Or they may be involved in sinful behavior they want to hide, and the truth would be too convicting. Whatever their reasons, we need to quit being so surprised and be ready to stand up and even fight for truth.

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- Q: In this episode, C.J and Staci were just looking for something to do. They were not looking for a big spiritual battle to take on, but they were indeed in the middle of one—and they never even realized it. Do you think this is a rare occurrence?
- A: We are always in the middle of a spiritual battle, and most of the time we don't know it. That is why it is imperative to obey God in the small things as well as the big things. That small thing may just be a big spiritual moment with huge implications for the future, and we may not realize it (Ephesians 6:10–18).

“I” Check (*Personal Application*)

1. C.J. and Staci may not see Rick and Mahdavi, but their actions certainly affected the two rats. Can you think of ways your actions might affect others around you? Why is it important to be mindful of others?
2. The theme of this episode is that God is always present and working out His plan. One of the words we use to describe this attribute of God is omnipresence. Using a dictionary, look up the definition of *omnipresent*. Can you think of any other examples of someone being omnipresent, or is this attribute only applicable to God? Why? Can you name any other attributes of God?
3. In addition to being a theologian, Mr. Collins was an archaeologist. Do you know what an archaeologist does? Can you think of reasons why the Bible might relate to archaeology?

Director's Notes

This episode is one we refer to as a “story arc episode.” Paws & Tales has a larger story being told, and the individual episodes are chapters of that larger plot. In this episode, we answer some questions we had set up previously, such as the mystery of the cylinders themselves.

As a story device, the cylinder player allows us to be transported anywhere Mr. Collins traveled, and more importantly, we can instantly go “into” Bible stories. Perhaps you have noticed that when Paws & Tales tells a Bible story, the characters are not animals. Esther is not a bear, a weasel, or a green onion. I want the listeners to have as real an image of the story as possible. In my opinion, we all suffer from a lack of knowledge of the great stories of the Bible and, in particular, of the Old Testament. Telling these stories is a core mission of Paws & Tales.

In this episode, we dig deeper into the issues of spiritual evil and the battles waged in the spiritual realm. I want to be very sensitive and not frighten kids too much, but they need to be aware that we must stand for the truth and stay on our toes because there are forces out there, spiritual and otherwise, that want us to be careless about the things of God (Ephesians 6:12). There are things to fight for. We need to know what they are and be ready.

This episode is also the set-up for “The Story of Esther,” our first biblical epic. The theme for this episode, as well as the story of Esther, is that though it may not appear obvious, God is indeed present and in control. This does not mean we should be passive. On the contrary, it guarantees that as we work to do the things God wants us to, He will bless our work and multiply our efforts! We were made to be co-laborers with Christ, and that absolutely requires us to be active and thoughtful (1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:1). We are in a battle, and there is work to be done.



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