

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

It Is Important to Have Godly Friends

Key Verse

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

- Q: Where does Miss Harbor say the winning class projects from each grade level will be permanently displayed?
A: *The new Wildwood Library*
- Q: What does Ned decide to make for his project?
A: *A cylinder player*
- Q: What does Staci want to take a picture of?
A: *Wildwood and her friends*
- Q: After making several trips to the Collins Mansion to sketch the cylinder player, what does Ned finally decide to do?
A: *To steal the cylinder player*
- Q: How does the fire start in Ned's basement?
A: *Timothy Owl put something in a trash can full of rags, and it burst into flames*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

- Q: Why did Ned pull away from his friends?
- A: Ned knew that he was crossing lines; he was doing and thinking things that were wrong. He didn't want his friends to know, and he definitely didn't want them to stop him. We often think that once our sin is over, we will get what we want and we will be able to make it up to the people around us. That's a lie that Satan would love for us to believe. God designed us to be and have friends (John 13:34; Romans 12:10). We should hold each other accountable to do what is right (Proverbs 27:6, 17). So listen to your family and friends when they ask tough questions, give good advice, and even offer correction. God provided them for you. And like Him, they love you and want what's best for you.

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Q: C.J. and the others tried to reach out and help Ned, but he was determined to win the contest at all costs. What else could they have done?

A: Unfortunately there are times when those we love will do selfish and hurtful things. We may not be able to stop them, but we need to be there for them, talk to them when we can, and love them, no matter what. Sometimes we can help them, but other times they may just continue being selfish and hurtful. So pray and pray hard. They are being attacked spiritually, much like Ned. They believe lies, and they want to keep believing them. The only One who can get through to them with the truth is God. Pray that your loved ones will see clearly; pray that they will be unable to continue in their sin, and try to be near when they come crashing down.

“I” Check (*Personal Application*)

1. Why do you think Ned became more and more irritable throughout the episode? Do you think there is a link between his pulling away from his friends and his poor attitude and sin problem? How could he have handled it differently?
2. Have you ever had friends who were a bad influence on you? How did you resolve the situation? Read Luke 17:1–3; 1 Corinthians 15:33; and 2 Corinthians 6:14. Why do you think it is important to make the kind of friends who will help you stay focused on doing what God wants you to do?
3. Make a list of your friends. How have your friends been there for you, encouraging you or helping you? Pray and thank God for each of your friends. Think about the things that are important to your friends or the needs they may have and bring them to God. Finally, ask God to show you how to be the best friend you can be.

Director's Notes

Leprosy is a strange and horrible disease. It attacks various parts of the body, including the eyes and skin. It attacks the nerves in a particularly insidious way, leaving the victim without any sense of feeling in the affected area. This might not seem so terrible until you realize what happens when your body loses all input from the outside world. If you accidentally hit your hand against the sharp edge of a table, you don't feel the pain. You don't take care of the injury, because the hand is totally isolated from the world. It does not even seem to be a part of your own body. Leprosy patients often have their fingers fall off because they lack healthy nerves to tell them that damage has occurred. Because lack of feeling causes the body part to feel disconnected, the wound often becomes infected and even gangrenous. The finger can die and eventually fall off. Sin does much the same thing to us spiritually.

Part of Satan's strategy is to cut us off, to isolate us from anything or anyone that might help us see the truth. Sin tells us that no one needs to know, that we can handle it alone. Often the shame of sin causes us to want to keep it all secret, to crawl off and be alone. John 3:20 tells us, "Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed." When we are alone in our sin, Satan has the opportunity to do his worst. He can bat us around and tell us lies, using the shame of sin to keep us in bondage. Without the advice of godly people around us, we may never know that we are in a downward spiral. We may not know that we are damaging ourselves, and therefore we may continue in our sin. This situation may feel like freedom, but if it continues, the soul will decay and become putrid. The isolation of sin is devastating.

Christ came to save us from hell and from the lies of Satan. And because of Christ, we can choose to live differently. As a disciple of Christ, we are told to gather with fellow believers regularly, to confess our sins, and to bear each other's burdens (Hebrews 10:25; James 5:16). We are described in 1 Corinthians 12 as one body, interdependent and cooperating. Following Christ is characterized by unity and community. We must not allow ourselves to sink into the dark place of sinful isolation. Though it may be embarrassing and painful, we must cry out for help. This cry is the beginning of freedom, the place of healing and growth. We are not in this alone.

"But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." (John 3:21)



David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales