

### 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

Desiring God

#### Key Verse

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.  
(Ephesians 3:20–21)

#### Ear Check (*Story Comprehension*)

- Q: What kind of a factory does C.J. say Alex inherited?  
A: *A candy factory*
- Q: What does Marsha say she wants from God?  
A: *More of Him*
- Q: Which office do C.J. and Ned find?  
A: *The manager's office*
- Q: When Alex says he thinks he should just sell all of the machines in the factory, what does Theo tell him he should do?  
A: *Stop being afraid and start experimenting with all of the equipment*
- Q: What are the "bad candies" really?  
A: *Pellets used to color concrete*

#### Heart Check (*Spiritual Application*)

Q: Why do most Christians choose to be comfortable instead of really trying to know God and seeking out what He wants them to do?

A: Most of us do not want enough of God. We can't see beyond the things we think we need to the things that God desires for us. Comfort and safety seem pretty important. In fact, many of us would argue that comfort and safety are the most important things God provides for us. We pray for them often. But these are actually relatively small things. God wants us to want bigger things—changed lives, healed relationships, and peace. We cannot get these things or force them to happen by ourselves. The way to get these really big things is to get close to God.

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Q: If I really want to get close to God, what should I do?

A: If you feel the desire to get really close to God, then He has already started changing your heart. This is a wonderful place to be, because if you ask God to help you know Him more deeply and understand Him more clearly, He *will* answer. In fact, He absolutely delights in answering prayers like these. As you read the Bible, you will start to see the things that matter most to God. Just ask Him; He will help you to want those things too. And though this is a process that will take time, if you ask Him, God will do the most amazing thing ever—He will make you more and more like His Son, Jesus Christ. So ask Him. Ask Him for more. He *will* respond.

#### **“I” Check (*Personal Application*)**

1. What do you think it means to want more of God? Why do you think some people seem to settle for not wanting more of Him?
2. Alma reminds the girls that sometimes we do the right things for the wrong reasons. Can you think of any instances where this is true in your life?
3. Alex was so consumed with trying to make bad candies that he couldn't see the potential of what he already had in the factory. Have you ever had someone tell you that you have potential? What do you think he or she meant? Are there things you think you'd like to try but are afraid you won't be able to accomplish? Theo told Alex he thought God wanted him to stop being afraid and experiment with using the machines in his factory. Would you try if you knew that God was behind you, helping you succeed?

### **Director's Notes**

In his book *The Weight of Glory: And Other Addresses*, C. S. Lewis said:

We are half-hearted creatures . . . like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.<sup>1</sup>

His words are true of me, and I suspect that they are true of you as well. Very few of us want what God wants for us because what He wants is so big, so disrupting, so *not* what we already have. The truth of the matter is that we usually want about twice what we have right now. We want twice the money and twice the peace. We certainly want twice the comfort, and we want things to be twice as good as they are. We want twice the number of mud pies! But God wants us to have something altogether different than what we have now, and He wants us to become something altogether different from what we are now. Scary thought, but I know it's true.

We are too devoted to comfort. We don't really want to pursue God, invite change, and live out an adventure. Have you ever sat alone and wondered why there isn't more "God-stuff" going on? Where are the mighty men of God? Where are the Christians who are so different that people are drawn to God through them? Why can't I feed on Scripture the way that Jesus did, love God's Word the way King David did, and pray with power the way a whole bunch of people have done throughout history? Where is the "God-stuff"?!!!

I am certain that I won't find it sitting in the same pew every week. I'm sure that I won't come across it as I carefully craft my life, ever seeking more comfort. I want more than that . . . at least part of me does. I want adventure. I want to act on the Word of God with courage. I want to be in a really tight spot and see how much God cares for me. I want to become something different; I want to become like Christ . . . at least part of me does.

Right now I don't have time to talk about how we go about getting involved in the "God-stuff." It's too soon for answers; we have more work to do with the original questions. Do you want more? Do you want to love God more and have deeper convictions? Do you want to have greater humility and serve others better? Give God your little bit of desire to be like Christ. Pray that He will cause you to ache for it. Ask Him to make you thirst for the Word and feel discomfort when you have gone a day without time devoted just to Him. Pray that He will give you greater compassion and deeper discernment. Do you want more than just comfort? Your answer to this question will affect everything else in your life. Do you want more?



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1. C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory: And Other Addresses* (New York: Harper Collins, 1949), 16.