

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

Cooperation

Key Verse

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. . . . A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9,12 NIV)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

- Q: What does the 1st place winner of the go-cart race receive?
A: *An extra-colossal, super-duper, triple-scooper banana split*
- Q: Why do the members of The Club each decide to build their own go-carts?
A: *They can't agree to work together.*
- Q: Why did Staci have a hard time finding parts for her go-cart?
A: *Her friends beat her to all of the places to find parts.*
- Q: What did Staci have to agree to so that Hannah would help her put the wheels on the washtub?
A: *She had to agree to wear a "Hannah's Hardware" hat, a "Hannah's Hardware" shirt, and a "Cheap Charlie's" button.*
- Q: What did Staci's go-cart crash into?
A: *A chicken coop*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

Q: Our goal as Christians is to strive to become like Christ, but it is impossible to become like Christ on our own. Why is this true?

A: Christianity is not primarily about exhibiting good behavior, achieving more knowledge, or performing acts of great sacrifice, though these are all important. Christianity is primarily about relationship. What God wants most from us is to love Him and participate with others to accomplish His plans. (See the Director's Notes and Questions for Cubs from "A Closer Look" for more on this topic.) For instance, we need to surround ourselves

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with mature believers to help guide us away from confusing and destructive things. We need wise words from believers who love us and are willing to tell us we are being foolish when we are selfish and mean. We need others to help us understand the Bible and to learn how to actually *do* what it says. Left alone, we will begin to think that the Bible means only what we want it to mean, and we will simply justify our selfishness and mean words as accurate truth. To be more like Christ is not to be a little better than we are now, it is to become something totally different than we have ever been. It is a totally foreign, alien thing to become, and our common sense will not help us. We need God speaking to us through Scripture and other believers to guide us toward becoming what we were made for, but cannot imagine on our own. Christianity is absolutely a team sport (Galatians 6:1–10).

“I” Check (*Personal Application*)

1. Name some things you do that require you to cooperate with others. Why is working together important?
2. Sometimes working with others can be hard because we can't always do things the way we'd like. What could the members of The Club have done to resolve their differences?
3. Read Romans 12:4–5. As a Christian, you are part of a very large team which the Apostle Paul refers to as “the body of Christ.” Every person has both a role and a responsibility in the body of Christ. Now read Matthew 28:19–20. Why is it important that Christians work together?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–30. Paul tells us more about the body of Christ and how we all play a part. Why is it a good thing that there is so much diversity of gifts and abilities among Christians?

Director's Notes

Obtaining cooperation is pretty hard, but achieving unity is extremely difficult. Christians are not just called to cooperate; we are commanded to seek unity. I think it is fair to say that the abundant life Christ came to give us cannot be had apart from community and unity with other believers. Peace, the end of loneliness for our souls, humility, and the transformation of our lives through spiritual growth cannot occur without the scrutiny and care of fellow believers. I want The Club to be an example of true unity. They spend a lot of time playing and participating in normal kid stuff. As they play, they observe each other and openly comment on what they observe, whether it's good or bad. As a mentor, Paw Paw Chuck fills this role, as well. Both are needed; both are critical.

One of the characteristics that Americans, in particular, are known for in the world is our independent spirit, our I-did-it-my-way attitude. This way of thinking is poison to spiritual growth. In our independence, we tend to focus on small parts of Scripture and ignore the rest. We walk around with a theology that we may never have articulated out loud and that may very well be wrong. It's possible that right now, even as you are reading this, you are clinging to false beliefs about the Christian life, and you don't even know it. One of the best ways to determine if you are holding on to false beliefs is to share your beliefs with other, more mature Christians.

We also need to quit just sitting in the pew, gaining more information, and start using what we've learned. Consider the following suggestions that might help jump-start this process for you.

Consider the possibility that you may hold some erroneous beliefs. I have known people who believed that Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden because they had sex. That is not what the Bible teaches. They were forced to leave because they disobeyed God. Others believe they will make it into heaven if they are good enough. They are wrong. Heaven is the eternal home only for those who trust in Jesus Christ. Some believe that what God wants *most* from Christians is for us to sin less. They, too, are wrong. What God wants most is for us to seek to know Him better. Incorrect beliefs will chart the course of how we approach God, and they will cause a shipwreck!

You must decide for yourself whether or not to accept Jesus's beliefs and teachings, many of which might surprise you if you really understood them. Or you may decide that you are more interested in the appearance that you have it all together. Ayn Rand, author of *The Fountainhead*, writes of one of her characters, "He didn't want to be great, but to be thought great." Too many Christians are satisfied with being thought of as holy but do not want to be holy. Let's not add to their numbers.

The best way to sift through your beliefs and remove the things that are false is to allow other trusted believers in to see what your soul looks like. If you believe something that is wrong, your confidant will hear you share your struggles and guide you to the truth. It may be embarrassing, but it will be healing. Iron sharpening iron causes sparks; it's the nature of the process. Still, you need to allow the right people to know your heart and you theirs. If you do not have this kind of Christian community around you, find one. Do not rest until you have and, by all means, start creating this kind of community in your own family.



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