

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

The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Romans 13:9 NIV)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

Q: Name one thing that Paw Paw Chuck asked C.J. and Staci to do.

A: *Deliver a saw, pick up apples, or deliver plans to the sawmill*

Q: What time did the mill close?

A: *4:00 p.m.*

Q: What flavor of taffy were C.J. and Staci offered at Mr. Crawford's general store?

A: *Banana*

Q: What kind of animal is Edgar?

A: *A skunk*

Q: C.J. said that their experience was like what Bible story?

A: *The Good Samaritan*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

Q: The cubs were falling behind schedule with every person they met. When this happens to you, and it will, how should you react?

A: It is always important to do the best job that you can do, but it would be a mistake to think of people merely as obstacles in your way as you try to get everything on your list done. Often what God has in mind for us is very different from what we think is most important. It is safe to say that we don't treat people with as much care as God would like us to (1 John 4:7-12).

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Q: What reasons could C.J. and Staci have come up with to choose not to help the skunk?

A: Helping Edgar would make them late, which meant that they would disappoint Paw Paw Chuck. Or, they might have assumed someone else would come along to help Edgar eventually. And, they could have just decided not to help simply because he really smelled bad! Of course, C.J. and Staci did the right thing and helped Edgar. There will be many times when we will be confronted by a situation that demands our attention. We can always think of reasons *not* to do the right thing—some of them might even be really good ones. But, in the end, God sometimes puts His children into places and situations we could not plan for in order to use them for good. What a privilege to find ourselves in such a situation and to be able to do the right thing and show someone God's love (Ephesians 2:10)!

Q: Why would God put situations like a smelly skunk who needs help in our path?

A: What we accomplish physically in this world is not nearly as important as the spiritual things that we accomplish. People are the most valuable creation on earth in God's eyes. Part of becoming more like Christ is to begin to see others the way God does. We are to act as if we are one body, everyone helping and being helped when we need it (1 Corinthians 12:12–26).

“I” Check (*Personal Application*)

1. Paw Paw Chuck asked the cubs to help him with some important chores. What responsibilities do you have at home, school, or church?
2. When the cubs came across Edgar, they knew they'd have to change their plans, even if it meant disappointing Paw Paw Chuck. Have you ever had to change your plans? How did you respond to it?
3. Read the parable of the Good Samaritan, beginning in Luke 10:30. Why do you think it's important to help others in need? What should you do in an emergency if you find someone who needs help?
4. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?
5. What things can you do to show “your neighbors” that you care about them?

Director's Notes

Souls will last forever. The Word of God will last forever. Everything else on earth will not. We are eternal beings who have immense value to God. Sadly, most of the time we view people as mere tools to help us achieve our goals or as obstacles between us and our objectives. Our modern culture reinforces this warped perspective every day. We are so self-centered that when we contemplate the truth that everyone is of immense value to God, it is so contrary to the way we live it seems downright alien. We need to be shocked out of this train of thought, recognizing the truth with our minds and our hearts.

The lawyer mentioned in Luke 10:25–29 was trying to justify himself before Jesus because he felt no compulsion to help a wounded stranger. Even while he was talking face-to-face with Christ, he was trying to shape the truth of Scripture to fit his own motives. Jesus was so wise and loving; he heard the question the lawyer asked and didn't answer it. Instead, He answered the real question by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan and challenging the lawyer to love his neighbor with his actions, not just his words. Jesus's actions make me think of C.S. Lewis's description of Aslan; "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good."¹ Jesus refused to be "safe" for the lawyer. He would not allow the lawyer to think of a pitiful stranger as anything other than a creature of immense value. Jesus rocked this lawyer's world and left him with the knowledge that he was not as righteous as he had believed he was.

We need to believe and teach our kids that the souls God has created are worth our effort. Every person is worthy of our time and sacrifice, even if it means missing a deadline at work or putting a chore on hold. What we achieve on earth will largely, I think, be forgotten in the first seconds of our time in heaven. However, the souls that join us there will worship God with us forever and ever.



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1. C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (London: Geoffrey Bles, 1950), 146.