

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

Sinning Hurts Our Service to God

Key Verse

He who pursues righteousness and loyalty
Finds life, righteousness and honor. (Proverbs 21:21)

Ear Check (*Story Comprehension*)

- Q: C.J. joins Hugh and his gang in doing what?
A: *Making fun of Gooz*
- Q: Mr. Collins was given a carving of a panther's head for doing what?
A: *Helping two tribes come to peace with each other*
- Q: Where does C.J. suggest Hugh and his gang should fish?
A: *On the river above the sawmill*
- Q: Why does everyone get mad at C.J.?
A: *He revealed everyone's secrets*
- Q: What two things did Mr. Collins say cause more pain than devastating hurricanes?
A: *Someone who thinks it's all right to sin in order to do God's will, and someone who won't ask for forgiveness for the mess he or she has made*

Heart Check (*Spiritual Application*)

- Q: C.J.'s plan to bring The Club and Hugh's gang together failed. If it had worked—if all of the fighting had stopped and if everyone had started to get along together—wouldn't it have been worth it for C.J. to tell a few secrets?
- A: Doing something that's wrong—no matter the motive or the results—is never right. Isaiah 55:8 says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, / Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD." Our plans are small and incomplete compared to God's. We can never know the whole picture, nor can we be certain of the outcome. We can't begin to grasp God's plans, and that is why we must not decide that our plans are so big and important that we can disregard the commands God has given us in His Word. We should never just do whatever we need to in order to get our own way—even if we think it's for "a good cause." So much damage has been done throughout

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history by people who were willing to do *anything* for a good cause. Never serve a cause. If you do, in time you will hurt other people, and you might miss the plans God has for you. Instead, serve God. Let Him worry about the rest.

“I” Check (*Personal Application*)

1. Do you think there is anything wrong with trying to bring peace between two groups? What was wrong with the way C.J. went about it?
2. Has someone ever shared a secret with you? As long as the secret isn't about something that is harmful to themselves or to others, why is it important to faithfully keep the secrets of others?
3. Read Proverbs 12:26, Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 27:6, and Ephesians 4:32. Name some qualities of a godly friend.
4. Read Matthew 18:21–35. What should you do when a friend betrays your trust? Do you think that we have to trust people who have betrayed our trust before?

Director's Notes

This episode addresses an issue that is both complex and common. C.J. wants to bring The Club and Hugh's gang together to make peace. The problem arises when he starts gossiping and divulging personal information in order to "get in" with each side. In doing this, C.J. tries to accomplish a godly goal through sinful means.

Unfortunately, this happens more often than we might imagine. It comes on quietly but suddenly. It happens when our goal becomes more important than God Himself. Our very nature screams out that tasks accomplished, buildings built, and successful programs are what God cares about most. But they are not. If cheating, deceit, manipulation, or any other sin is required in order to proceed, for heaven's sake, stop! In 1 Samuel, King Saul lost his kingdom in this way. His army was afraid in the face of great danger and began to run out on him. He was supposed to wait for Samuel, the prophet of God, to come and offer a sacrifice. But Saul was afraid. He panicked, and in an effort to keep his army together he offered the sacrifice himself. He knew that only Samuel was to do this, but Saul was more concerned with the opposing Philistine army than he was with God (1 Samuel 13:13–14).

We are more than likely not leading an army, but we are leading our families, churches, and communities. The very best thing we can do for them is to place our relationship with God high above everything else and then to utterly commit to obeying Him at all costs, whatever the circumstances. If we submit to God in this way, He will accomplish more through us than we could ever have dreamed to accomplish on our own.



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