

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

Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

Key Verse

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

Q: Who is The Club on their way to meet?

A: *Ezra the shepherd*

Q: Why do the girls decide they don't want to be shepherds?

A: *They don't like the smell of the sheep*

Q: What does C.J. decide to name his pet lamb?

A: *Oscar*

Q: What does Ezra call sheep that have rolled onto their backs?

A: *Cast sheep*

Q: Since shepherding is really hard, C.J. decides that shepherds must have what for their sheep?

A: *Love*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

Q: I've heard that God is mostly upset with us because we are sinful. How can He be a loving Shepherd too?

A: To have the correct picture of God and what He is like is perhaps the most important thing you can learn. It would be wrong to say that God is only "love," but it would also be wrong to say that He is only "angry." God is indeed angry with those who are rebellious and who hate Him. He is upset with those who lie and harm His children. However, for His children, those who believe in Him and who have made Him Lord of their life, He is enormously patient and loving and attentive. He is the Good Shepherd.

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Q: What would happen if I were a “trouble-making sheep”? How would the Good Shepherd deal with me if I didn’t follow Him very well?

A: Sheep are not very smart; they have difficulty defending themselves and running away from danger. They are generally afraid to be alone and want to be with their shepherd (if they have one). It’s the few sheep who don’t believe these things about themselves that cause the most problems. A good shepherd will still love them and care for them. But he may need to give them an occasional bonk on the head to keep them from eating poisonous weeds. He may even need to restrict their freedoms for their own safety. God loves a “trouble-making sheep” just as much as the others. He just may need to deal with them differently.

“I” Check (*Personal Application*)

1. C.J. decided that because shepherding was hard work, shepherds must really love their sheep or else it wouldn’t be worth the effort. Jesus calls Himself “The Good Shepherd” in John 10:11. Knowing Jesus as “The Good Shepherd,” what are some ways He shows love towards His flock (you and me)?
2. In some ways, taking care of sheep is like being the parent of a child. What do your parents do to take care of you? Take some time to thank your parents for loving you and taking good care of you.

Director's Notes

"The Good Shepherd" is the first episode in a new series that will eventually cover the entire Twenty-third Psalm. This section of the Bible is a deep well of truth and comfort that is easily accessible to all of us. One of the things we try to do with Paws & Tales is to teach the nature of God. Many things direct us away from the biblical description of God. Consequently most of us have wrong ideas about God. We may feel that God is aloof and uninterested in us. Or that He is actually seething in anger all the time—if we step out of line, He may zap us into oblivion. Our view of God affects everything else about us. We must not settle for an incorrect, and therefore damaging, concept of who God is. That is why Psalm 23 has been so loved through centuries—and will be for all eternity. This section of Scripture tells us God deeply loves us and cares about our daily well-being. He protects us and corrects us because He cares. It is hard to be exposed to these verses and not be caught up in the wonder of such a love. Kids NEED to know God's love. It's the foundation that will carry them when the world seems in chaos. Even if He knocks us on our backs and grabs us by the throat, it is because He is in the act of saving us from something. That's the nature of His love for us. This profound truth isn't very deep, but it's a truth any kid can learn. And that's just what I have attempted to do in this episode.

C.J. and Ned find themselves learning about shepherding. The sheep are dumb. Sometimes they are so scared that they will run off a cliff while trying to escape danger. On top of that, they are defenseless and emit an offensive odor. The parallels between us and these sheep are too uncomfortable to ponder for long. But this episode is not about the helplessness of the sheep, it is about the capacity of the shepherd. C.J. comes to love the sheep, and to his credit, he does as good a job of shepherding as he can. But the point is that God never slips away to sleep. He is never surprised by wolves or anything else. The Good Shepherd does what He does for us because He loves His sheep.



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