

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

Everything We Do Should Be Done for the Lord

Key Verse

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.
(Colossians 3:23 NIV)

Ear Check (*Story Comprehension*)

Q: Who does Marsha discover is a very good speller?

A: *Tiffany Rockler*

Q: Who does Tiffany hire before the spelling bee?

A: *Mr. Sotto, a private detective*

Q: Ned says Marsha should tell Tiffany something to cause her to lose. What was it?

A: *Ned says Marsha should tell Tiffany her mother is in the audience*

Q: What advice does Miss Harbor give Marsha about winning?

A: *Winning and doing your best is good, but we must do everything in a way that pleases God*

Q: Who wins the spelling bee?

A: *Tiffany Rockler*

Heart Check (*Spiritual Application*)

Q: If I try to do things in a way that makes God smile, why does it seem like He always allows mean or bad people to win?

A: Perhaps it seems that mean and dishonest people win more often than kind and truthful people, but theirs is a hollow, false victory. Proverbs 19:1 says that it is better to be a poor and honest person than to be a rich person no one can trust. People who grab things that God did not give them will suffer the consequences someday. You see, they think the most important thing is winning, but deep inside what they really want (even though they may not know it) is the admiration that they will receive from people when they win. And when they cheat in order to win, they know that they don't really deserve the admiration they get and they are left empty. Their victory really isn't a victory at all.

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Q: If someone is mean to me, why can't I be mean back?

A: While this seems to be fair, as followers of Christ we are called to seek more than what's "fair" in the eyes of the world. We desire what God wants—transformation. He wants unbelievers to come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and then to be transformed into His disciples, constantly growing to become more like Christ. When we "turn the other cheek," refusing to take revenge for what has been done to us, it may not be "fair," but we are demonstrating a characteristic of Jesus. We have created a point of departure—an opportunity for transformation to occur in everyone involved (Matthew 5:38–45). Don't give in to the temptation to get back at others when you are hurt, but instead return their evil with good. Let the transformation begin (Luke 6:35).

"I" Check (*Personal Application*)

1. Sometimes when we do something good, it is easy to forget that God cares more about the attitudes and motivations of our hearts than about the end result of our actions. Can you think of a time when you had a bad attitude about something? What happened to change your attitude?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24–27. The apostle Paul compares living the Christian life to running in a race. In sports, we must play by the rules in order to win. What would you say are the "rules" of living the Christian life? Where can you find them?
3. Moral Dilemma: Your teacher has divided your class into two teams. The first team to correctly match a list of inventors with their inventions will win movie passes to an upcoming film at your local movie theater. Your friend Tammy tells you she can look through the window into another classroom and see some of the answers. Jack sits in front of Tammy, but he's on the other team. He is able to see some of the answers too, and he begins sharing them with his teammates. What do you tell Tammy? What do you do about Jack? Justify the reasons for what you choose to do.

Director's Notes

Do your kids know that God doesn't want them to win at everything? It is not particularly a sign of God's favor when we win or of His disapproval when we lose. It's equally wrong to assume that wealth is a sign of God's favor and that poverty is a sign of His punishment. These false guides offer no insight into one's spiritual condition, which is what interests God the most.

In this episode, Marsha loses, but she wins big in the arena of character development and spiritual growth. God honors such progress. On the other hand, Tiffany wins, but she is once again confused, disappointed with herself, and spiritually bankrupt. Tiffany's worldview tells her that success means winning, so winning is everything and losing is failure. She is mistaken, but the promise of success is so strong it can be difficult to see the truth.

Growing up, I watched a television series called *The Twilight Zone*. It wasn't a Christian program, to be sure. But its creator, Rod Serling, was a deeply moral man. So the stories he wrote were morality plays, often with an ironic twist at the end. In one episode, a selfish man who only wanted to be left alone with his books discovers that he has survived a nuclear blast that has killed everyone but him. Surprisingly not bothered by this, he is thrilled to think that he can be alone and do nothing but read. Ironically, he breaks his glasses and can no longer see the books that he worships.

Success is like that when it means pursuing our selfish desires at all costs. Think of those you know who have idolized winning in their lives. They often come near their goal, only to realize that the very people they had wanted to make proud now hate them for the years of neglect they suffered. This kind of success is like riding a tiger. Though it may carry you some distance and be very exciting, you are never in control, and it will very likely turn on you and tear you to pieces.



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