

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

Serving One Another

Key Verse

“Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.” (Mark 10:43–44)

Ear Check (*Story Comprehension*)

Q: What does Miss Harbor say was the “motto of the day” in medieval times?

A: *“Might is right”*

Q: What did Gus say they did with the sailor who didn’t follow the rules?

A: *They tied him up and left him on the dock*

Q: What noise does Gooz make if she catches someone breaking a rule?

A: *A squishy eye noise*

Q: Who is the first to get kicked out of The Club for getting five demerits?

A: *Staci*

Q: Gus says that in this case C.J. was a bad what?

A: *A bad leader*

Heart Check (*Spiritual Application*)

Q: When it comes to guiding others toward Christ, what is the best way to control the behavior of those around us?

A: We can’t control the behavior of others; we can only control our own. Jesus never intended us to dominate others into following Him. We are to serve and lead like a shepherd. A cattleman drives his cattle; a shepherd leads his sheep. The cattle fear and comply, but the sheep love and follow (Matthew 9:36–37). Christ is the Good Shepherd, and He is our example of how to lead others toward Him (1 Peter 3:15).

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Q: What if someone is trying to control me? Can I ignore him or her?

A: If this person is an adult in authority over you, you need to obey him or her. The only exception is if he or she is trying to get you to lie, steal, or do anything else that contradicts God's Word (Acts 5:28–29). On the other hand, if the person trying to control you is a friend of yours, perhaps you should talk to that person about why he or she is trying to control you and ask him or her to stop. If that person keeps trying to control you, perhaps it is time to start looking for a better, kinder friend.

“I” Check (*Personal Application*)

1. Explain why rules are necessary. Are there some rules that you don't like to follow? Do you follow them anyway? Why, or why not?
2. Explain what you think the key verse for this episode means. Can you think of ways that you can live this verse out in your life?
3. Do you know any good leaders—perhaps your parents, a teacher, or someone at your church? What qualities do you think make them good leaders?

Director's Notes

There are many styles of leadership. Some work well in certain situations and are terrible in others. For example, an army drill sergeant only cares about preparing his soldiers for battle. He doesn't worry about whether they like him or not. It's irrelevant. Neither is he all that concerned with character building or worldview development. He just wants his soldiers to be ready for battle. This is a fair and understandable way to lead under the circumstances. But this would be a terrible way to lead a family, a church, or a group of friends.

The idea of controlling others appeals to most of us, so we try it any number of ways. We may use guilt, threats, or promises to get others to do what we want. But all of these strategies are ultimately for our own benefit—at the expense of others. That's not the way it's supposed to be (Philippians 2:3).

The Bible teaches us to love others just as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:36–40). Following this command means we will want the best for each other. It means our behavior will change remarkably. The more we become like Christ we will find that extending the grace of God to others is the most satisfying and rational thing to do. I believe that one of the reasons we focus so heavily on behavior, as opposed to the condition of the heart, is because of the difficulty in addressing the condition of our own heart, let alone the heart of another.

As leaders in our homes, jobs, and churches, we can force good behavior out of others. But it very well may be at the expense of their hearts, which is the very thing that interests God the most. Heavy-handed rules and domination of others may accomplish compliance, but leading with grace accomplishes growth. Unfortunately, the person you extend grace to may simply choose to refuse it. It happened often to Christ, and it will happen to us as well (Matthew 19:16–23). However, if another accepts our offer of God's grace, it will bring hope, freedom and salvation—things that can never be accomplished otherwise.



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