

Tools for Parents

Whose Name Is Jealous

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

Anything That Distracts Us from God Is an Idol

Key Verse

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me." (Exodus 20:2-3)

Ear Check (*Story Comprehension*)

- Q: What sport do the members of The Club play together?
A: *Baseball*
- Q: What becomes the team's new motto?
A: *"Play hard, and play to please God"*
- Q: What does Gooz find that she thinks might bring them luck?
A: *A penny*
- Q: What does God say we are not to bow down to?
A: *Idols*
- Q: Gooz replaces the "lucky" penny with what?
A: *A button*

Heart Check (*Spiritual Application*)

Q: What is an idol?

A: An idol is anything that we worship other than God. At one time, idols were carved from stone or wood. Ancient peoples believed that these idols were gods, in control of things such as rain, the harvest, and even success or failure in battle. So they devoted themselves to serving the idols. They gave them food and money, hoping that, in return, the idol would give them a good crop, protection from their enemies, peace, or happiness. But the idols weren't real—the people were deceived. Today, our idols look very different. They can be things like money, fame, or talent. In fact, an idol is anything that we value more than God. In our minds, it seems silly for people to pray to a piece of rock, but we are not much different. When we ignore God and devote ourselves to something else, we are just as foolish and as sinful as a Canaanite praying to a god of stone.

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Q: I don't want to worship anything other than God, but I do like to do or say things that are supposed to bring good luck. Baseball players, golfers, and Olympic athletes all have harmless superstitions that seem to help or hurt them when they keep or break them. Certainly there can't be anything wrong with that, is there?

A: There is no such thing as "luck." That's the truth. You cannot lose luck, and you cannot get more of it. Luck may seem like a harmless thing to play with, but be careful. Trusting in good luck nibbles away at our dependence on God. In fact, because of this notion of luck, we often treat God as if He were a lucky charm. We pray to Him hoping to win a game or to have a safe trip without considering what He thinks of what we are doing or what He wants for us. To treat God like a lucky charm is disrespectful and utterly foolish. He is the all-powerful Creator-King of the universe, and He will do as He pleases (Psalm 47:2–4), according to His almighty plan and without regard to anything we might say or do to manipulate Him (Psalm 115:3). So stop pursuing luck or playing with it in any form. Quit rubbing pennies or doing things in a special order, and throw out that colored rabbit's foot. Put your trust in God. He alone is worthy.

"I" Check (Personal Application)

1. Do you own any good luck charms? What do you think about them now, after hearing this episode?
2. Name some times when people hope luck will help them. Instead of believing in luck, can you think of something better that you can trust in when you need or want something?
3. Read Colossians 3:1–10. In verse 5, what does Paul call idolatry? If we covet, we're probably not bowing down to a stone idol. Explain why you think coveting what someone else has could be considered idolatry.

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Director's Notes

An important difference exists between worshiping the one, true God (Christianity) and worshiping any other god (idolatry). An idolater tries to appease a god (or force) in order to get the god to do something that he wouldn't do otherwise. In other words, idolatry is simply trying to get what we want, regardless of what God wants. Whatever the idol may be—stone, gold, a job, a talent, or a lucky penny—letting it take center stage in our lives is an act of rebellion against God (Ezekiel 14:4–5). Our own sin nature wants to be free of God and to do whatever gives us the most pleasure and satisfaction. It motivates us to seek something other than the true God. This is the very essence of our struggle to follow Him.

Christianity teaches that God wanted a relationship with us long before we were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He has done great and mighty things to allow that relationship to be possible, not the least of which was sending His Son to die for our sins (Romans 5:8). Christianity is about the God who loves us (John 3:16). Since Adam's fall into sin, all people have a void that only God can fill (Romans 5:12–15).

Once we have a relationship with God, the next step to becoming more like Christ is our coming to grips with the fact that God knows what's best for us. This is, at first, a bitter pill to swallow, but this understanding has everything to do with making Christ the Lord of our lives. If we learn not to trust ourselves, then we will automatically feel the need to turn to our Father in heaven for everything, trusting His lead in the ways we should go. This is absolutely contrary to common sense, but we are after more than common sense—we are after the thoughts and desires of the Creator of the universe!

The lesson of this episode is simple but profound: Do not place your trust in anything less than God.



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