

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

Overcoming Fear

Key Verse

“Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
(Joshua 1:9)

Ear Check (Story Comprehension)

Q: What is the name of Hugh’s cousin?

A: *Joey*

Q: What does Hugh say he and Joey are going to take over?

A: *The fortress*

Q: What is Gooz doing to prepare for Joey’s arrival?

A: *She’s planning to “bob and weave.”*

Q: How did Joey get to Wildwood? (By boat, plane, train, etc.)

A: *Joey arrived on the train.*

Q: What is the real reason Joey came to visit?

A: *Joey came to stay with Hugh because his mother was in the hospital.*

Heart Check (Spiritual Application)

Q: The Bible says “Do not fear” almost a hundred times. Does that mean we should never be afraid of something?

A: There are good and normal kinds of fear. Avoiding danger or getting out of the way of harm can come from healthy fear; otherwise we would be hurt all the time. However, the kind of fear the Bible tells us to resist comes from a lack of faith and obedience. If our fear causes us to doubt God or to disobey His commands, that kind of fear is sin. Sometimes we can get so focused on our fear that we forget to focus on God, who is the only one who can help us (Matthew 10:28–31; 14:29–31; Mark 5:36).

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Q: The Club had very little information about Joey. Why did they start to make things up about him?

A: One of the terrible things about letting our fear go crazy is that it becomes bigger and more frightening than it should be. Going to God in prayer and telling your fears to trusted adults allow you to get a realistic perspective and could even help you resolve the fear. The worst thing you can do is fear silently and let it grow (Psalm 50:15).

Q: Why does God allow scary things into our lives?

A: God sometimes allows us to face things that are too big for us to handle. If we respond correctly, then we will draw closer to Him instead of leaving Him behind (Proverbs 18:10).

“I” Check (*Personal Application*)

1. When was the last time you were afraid? What were you afraid of?
2. When The Club started talking about Joey, it only made them more afraid and anxious. They were saying a lot of bad things about him but didn't really know if any of it was true. What do you think they should have done instead?
3. The Club's fear of Joey made them all do some pretty silly things. Have you ever done something you wish you hadn't because you were afraid?
4. When C.J. met Joey, he realized that he didn't have any reason to be afraid of him. Have you ever had an idea about someone that changed once you met him or her?
5. The Club made a rule to pray when they are afraid as well as when God had done something good for them. When do you pray and what do you pray about?

Director's Notes

"High Noon" is one of our first episodes. It deals with one of the first topics I wanted *Paws & Tales* to address—fear. Adults tend to be rather dismissive of children's fears. Sometimes we see these fears as silly, temporary, or insignificant. That is a serious mistake.

To minimize another person's fear, whether he or she is a child or an adult, is to shame him or her. We should never shame anyone—ever. We can help to dispel the fear or perhaps prove that the fear can be overcome, but we should never dismiss or shame someone who is afraid. It is not only ineffective but damaging.

One of the major mistakes The Club makes in this episode is choosing to try to deal with the situation on their own. If they had turned to a trusted adult, two changes would have resulted. They would have avoided spinning into a frenzy, and this episode would have been about seven minutes long!

I want kids to see the sheer silliness of allowing their secret fears to run wild. Unfortunately, the typical outcome of unchecked fear is neither as humorous nor as easily remedied as the one in "High Noon." To keep one's fear a secret is to be controlled by that fear.

We must face some fears with as much assistance as we can rally, and we must start this process by talking it over with God. Praying is not a cure-all for fear, but it is the first step toward healing. To tell God about your fears is to be open to Him, to be vulnerable in front of Him. This is much more important than attempting to resolve the actual fear itself.

For children, some fears will dissipate as their minds mature, and some fears will be dispelled by reality. But when a child learns to turn to God when fear is present, his or her trust in God will grow and deepen over a lifetime.



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