

Grace to Hugh

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

God gives us grace

KEY VERSE

"He gives grace to the afflicted." (Prov. 3:34)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What happened to the Collins' mansion?
A: *It was burned in a fire*
- Q: Who is Chief Williams?
A: *He is Wildwood's fire chief*
- Q: How did the Collins' mansion burn down? Was it an accident?
A: *Hugh accidentally set fire to the mansion while playing with firecrackers and matches*
- Q: What happened to C.J. while he and Staci were looking for clues?
A: *A wall collapsed around him*
- Q: What kind of bear is Paw Paw Chuck?
A: *A grizzly*

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: Hugh didn't mean to start a fire; he was only playing with firecrackers and matches. Why was Chief Williams so tough on him?

A: *Although Hugh didn't mean to start the fire he was disobeying Chief Williams and his own father. Sin often has consequences that are worse than we can imagine (Heb. 10:26–31). That's why God wants us to obey Him and those in authority over us—it's for our own protection.*

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Q: Gooz restarted the fire. Why did she feel so badly about it? Why did Hugh only feel sorry when he got caught?

A: Gooz loved Mrs. Collins, and she would never want to do anything that would hurt her. Hugh only thought about himself. If he had not been caught, he would probably never have thought about how much he hurt Mrs. Collins.

Q: Gooz's actions really did cause damage to Mrs. Collins. Why did Mrs. Collins treat her so well?

A: Mrs. Collins loved Gooz, and she knew Gooz had only been trying to help. Mrs. Collins would have been justified if she had decided to ask Gooz to pay for the damages she caused. But her love gave her the grace to want to reach out and honour Gooz for her efforts to help.

Q: Hugh did not love Mrs. Collins the way Gooz did. Hugh was actually very selfish and rather difficult to like at all. Why did Mrs. Collins decide to pay off the debt for Hugh? Why did she make him feel so badly before she forgave him?

A: Even though Hugh did not have a relationship with Mrs. Collins, she wanted to have one with him. She wanted to help him even if it cost her dearly. Hugh needed a change in his heart, and Mrs. Collins knew that she could touch his heart powerfully by helping him. For Hugh's heart to begin to heal, he needed to understand the weight of his sin and how he had ruined his life with his actions. Once he could grasp the enormity of his situation, he could then appreciate how much grace had been shown to him.

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. C.J. learned how the fire to the Collins' mansion was started. What if you discovered someone had done something wrong? Would you tell someone? What if the person who did wrong was a friend or a family member?
2. Paw Paw Chuck rescued C.J. when the house was falling down. Has anyone ever saved you from getting hurt? What happened?
3. Misleading someone is the same thing as lying to them. Can you think of a time when you lied to someone else? Did that person ever discover the truth?
4. Mrs. Collins showed grace to Hugh. Why do you think she was so nice to him even though he burned down her house?
5. Grace is getting something good that you do not deserve or not getting something bad that you do deserve. Have you ever been shown grace? Describe a time when you showed grace to someone else.

Grace to Hugh

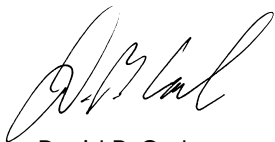
DIRECTOR'S NOTES

For more than 30 years, Chuck Swindoll and Insight for Living have made the message of God's grace a clarion call to tired, guilt-ridden Christians around the world. I wanted to communicate that same message in *Grace to Hugh*.

There are many difficult concepts to understand when we come to the subject of grace, but perhaps the most difficult is the sheer unreasonableness of it. Grace is not fair! I want the kids who are listening to be surprised and even upset with the unfairness of Hugh being forgiven. He did a terrible thing, felt no real remorse, and there is every reason to believe that he will do something like this again.

Honestly, you don't have to probe very deeply into the message to realize that we are all Hugh. "What would you do if you were Hugh?" is not just a cute lyric. We all are rebellious sinners who are largely without remorse. So, why would anyone extend grace to someone like that? Why would anyone forgive a debt like this?

We have a God who loves us unreasonably. There is no accounting for why He has done for us what He has. He just loves His children beyond reason! God satisfied His justice in order to provide for our forgiveness. A sacrifice was required, so He gave one; Christ died in our place. God cares more for our hearts and our relationship with Him than He cares for hard, cold justice. That astounding thought must be pondered long and hard.



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