

# TOOLS FOR PARENTS



## To Have and Give Not

### 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

Sharing

#### KEY VERSE

**“The righteous has an everlasting foundation.” (Prov. 10:25)**

#### EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What is The Club saving their money to buy?
- A: A telescope
- Q: What does Gooz think she’s found?
- A: A bag of gold pirate coins
- Q: Miss Harbor calls selfishness the “Scourge of \_\_\_\_”?
- A: Me
- Q: What kind of animal is Ned?
- A: A beaver
- Q: Gooz’s buttons are used on what part of the Shady Days Rest Home?
- A: The roof

#### HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

**Q: Staci wanted to spend The Club’s money on a telescope. Is it wrong to buy things for yourself when you see people around you in need?**

A: *It’s not always a bad decision to buy things for ourselves, even when there are people in need around us. But it is important to be willing to use what God has provided for us when He prompts our hearts to do something to help meet the needs of other people. Many Christians are confused about how we should use money, so all of us need to give a great deal of grace to others on this subject. Having money is not a sin, because money is not bad in and of itself. However, having a great deal of money can be dangerous, because sometimes we’ll begin to love our money and that is a sin (1 Tim. 6:10).*



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**Q: Gooz found a wonderful treasure. Why was her first thought to hide it from everyone?**

*A: She very quickly gave into a common temptation—greed. When you become greedy, your grip on your belongings gets tighter and your world starts getting smaller. Gooz found a treasure, but she became afraid of losing it. Rather than worrying about it, she should have been imagining all the good that she could do with it. When we care more about keeping what we have than what is important to God, we stumble. Read the story of the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-24 to see how Jesus views people who prefer their material possessions to all of the good things God has for them.*

**Q: In the end Gooz gave a bag of unusable buttons to the rest home. Why did Paw Paw Chuck say that she gave the most of anyone?**

*A: Like many things in the Christian life, the spiritual—the condition of your heart—is more important than the physical. Gooz let go of her greed and gave what she had. She opened her heart to God. Because she opened her heart, God used useless buttons as a wonderful blessing for the rest home, for the town, and even for Gooz. God regularly uses things of little or no value in great and mighty ways (1 Cor. 1:26-27). When it comes right down to it, money is not the point at all. God is interested in the condition of a person's heart (Ps. 51:6, 10).*

### “I” CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. Have you ever saved your money to buy something special? What was it?
2. Sometimes God wants us to share what we have with others. Have you ever had a tough time sharing?
3. Staci's attitude about The Club's money was hurting her friendships. What do you think she should have done in this situation?
4. Miss Harbor wanted the class to think of ways that they could help the Shady Days Rest Home. Can you think of any ways you can help someone who is in need?
5. Paw Paw Chuck was able to use broken buttons to repair the roof of the Shady Days Rest Home. God often makes something good come out of something broken or bad. Can you think of a time when God made something good happen out of a bad situation?

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### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Money is a thorny issue, especially for Christians. Wealth has been both promised as the obvious result of a righteous life and preached against as the obvious proof that one is living in selfish ignorance of the needs of others. We need to extend grace in this area to everyone but still understand that going to extremes in the area of money is fraught with danger.

Christ talked about money a lot. He taught us that greed, the love of money, is a very real danger. My goal with this episode was to show that one can be equally greedy with a pirate's treasure or with three dollars. We don't have to be rich to be in love with money.

I am not suggesting that Staci had to be willing to give up her money or she would have sinned. Christians do not have to give to every need that we see. We do need to give to God what He asks of us. This certainly includes tithing, and it may include more—perhaps much more—but that is between each of us and the Lord. God is not after our money unless it is doing us harm. If it is doing harm, He will absolutely want to rescue us from it.

We are commanded to give with a joyful spirit. This is true with everything God asks of us. If we obey and do what He asks, we cannot avoid benefitting. Think of it as a law of spiritual physics.

Unselfish giving is an alien concept to our fallen natures. As a culture, very few of us give what we should. Because of that, all of us suffer. If, instead, we would choose to see the needs around us and respond out of the promptings of our heart rather than out of guilt, everyone involved would be greatly blessed. But, by not giving freely, we may well become spiritually bankrupt. And if we do not teach it by example to our kids, they will probably never want to engage in it.

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