

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



Standing Alone

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

Standing up for truth

KEY VERSE

“You shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly.” (Lev. 19:15)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What does C.J.'s dad do for a living?
A: *He's a lawyer*
- Q: What kind of animal is accused of stealing the silk?
A: *A mule*
- Q: What did The Club have to do to see the suspect in the jail?
A: *They had to climb a tree outside the jail*
- Q: Staci said that C.J. called his dad a what?
A: *A liar*
- Q: What really happened to the crate of silk?
A: *It fell into the water*

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: When the kids had so little information to go on, why did they instantly assume that the “Midnight Mule” was guilty?

A: *The Club was quick to pass judgment. We do this sort of thing all the time because it's much easier and faster to jump to conclusions than to get all the facts first. But it's also a lazy and dangerous way of thinking (Jn. 7:24).*

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Q: Why did the whole town seem to take the side of Wayne Armstrong and Jessie McClaw over that of the Mule? Why was this wrong?

A: *This too had a lot to do with lazy thinking. People tend to fear the unknown. It was convenient to have a scapegoat to blame for all the missing things in town. But the poor character of both Wayne Armstrong and Jessie McClaw were well-known in Wildwood. People should have known that they needed to gather more information before making such sweeping conclusions.*

Q: When Hugh had C.J. on the ground threatening him, why was C.J. finally able to stand up for his father?

A: *He had resolved in his heart that the truth was worth standing up for. He knew what was true of Wayne Armstrong and Jessie McClaw, and he knew what was true of his father. So he acted accordingly. Truth brings this kind of freedom (Jn. 8:32). It can eliminate confusion and make clear our course of action.*

“I” CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. *What does a lawyer do? Look up the meaning of the word advocate in a dictionary or other resource, and then read 1 John 2:1-2. How does Jesus act as our advocate?*
2. *Have you ever been accused of doing something that you didn't do? How did it make you feel?*
3. *Why is it always important to find out the truth when something happens? Is it fair to punish someone if they didn't do the crime? Why?*
4. *C.J.'s father was trying to do the right thing, but a lot of people were angry with him. Do you think you could do the right thing even if it made you unpopular to others? Why?*
5. *Can you think of a time when you did the right thing even when it was hard for you to do? How did it make you feel?*

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This episode is my homage to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a book and film that has influenced me enormously. I had a couple of goals for *Standing Alone*. I wanted C.J. to determine how he should think about truth. I also wanted to help fathers and future fathers understand the enormous force they are in the hearts of their children. What kid would not swell with pride to see his or her father stand up and endure serious consequences for the sake of truth? This is the stuff from which the brick and mortar of a child's world view are formed.

When I'm tired, confused, and feel like giving up, I think about what my dad would have done in the situation. My dad never gave up. He finished things he started. When I want to do my best, I follow his example. But, even if my dad had been a quitter and a dishonourable man, he still would have been my example and guide. We fathers must start thinking less about ourselves and live our lives according to the impact our actions will have on the next several generations.

Many people talk about truth these days as if it were as elusive as the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. All truth, whether specifically biblical or not, is real and recognizable. Truth withstands the ebb and flow of social whims. Finding and identifying truth in any specific arena may require some work, but it does exist. The sciences and mathematics present us with truth. How these truths are interpreted may be subject to speculation, but facts are facts because God made them so. The Bible offers truths that are understandable and necessary for godly living. We must be able to discern the truth from deception when we see it.

The Bible tells us that truth is not only worth fighting for, it is, in fact, critical to our protection. Truth makes up an essential part of the armour of God. The knowledge of truth allows us to avoid places of danger and can cut through the confusion and chaos sin creates. In this episode, I displayed a man, a father, who believes that truth is worth sacrificing for. Through this character, I illustrated the very real feelings that result from pursuing truth at all costs.

The pursuit of truth accomplishes spiritual qualities not often apparent to the naked eye. The reason that many never struggle with a dilemma of this sort is that they don't take the spiritual dimension into account. We tend not to think spiritually. That is a mistake. The Bible says, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but . . . against the spiritual forces of wickedness" (Eph. 6:12). The pursuit of truth is just one skirmish in a larger spiritual battle. We must begin to see it as such. Therefore, we must be willing to fight for truth even if we have to stand alone to do it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David B. Carl', is written in a cursive style.

David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales