

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



The Lighthouse

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

Our conscience is from God

KEY VERSE

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Ps. 119:105)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What does C.J. ask Captain Horatio for permission to take care of?
A: *The lighthouse*
- Q: What is the name of the owl that C.J. meets on his way to the lighthouse?
A: *Timothy Owl*
- Q: What does C.J. find on his way down from the lighthouse?
A: *A baseball glove*
- Q: With the lighthouse out, what was in danger?
A: *A ship*
- Q: What does Captain Horatio say is the “little voice God puts inside each of us”?
A: *Our conscience*

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

- Q: C.J. lied about having found the baseball glove, but it took a while to build up to it. What was going on up to that point that made it easier for him to lie?**
- A: He started making small poor decisions. Those decisions made it easier for him to make even worse decisions later on. In a very short time C.J. was doing something that he would have never considered doing before. That is the way sin works.

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Q: When Timothy Owl was tempting C.J., he never told a complete lie, and most of what he said was actually true. How do we handle this kind of temptation?

A: Half-truths are probably twice as bad as a simple lie. We cannot allow even a small amount of deception into our lives without it doing damage by dulling our sense of right and wrong. C.J. knew he was being told half-truths, but because they were excuses to do what he really wanted to do, he willingly chose to accept them as truth. We must stand firm and call even a half-truth what it is, a lie.

Q: Explain how choosing not to care for the lighthouse mirror is similar to allowing temptation to take hold of our hearts.

A: We have to keep ourselves clean from the filth of sin. If we allow ourselves to give into temptation and sin, they will cloud our senses. Over time as we hold onto and dwell on temptation, we slowly begin to think about doing things that we would never imagine doing right now. Sin is never acceptable, even if we don't get caught. It is damaging just by its very presence in our lives. Keep the mirror of your heart clean by reading the Bible, praying and confessing your sins, following the good example of godly people, and filling your mind with the good things of God (Phil. 4:8-9)!

“I” CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. C.J. asked Captain Horatio if he could take care of the lighthouse. Captain Horatio reminded C.J. that it was a very important job. What things are you responsible for that your parents and teachers count on you to do?
2. C.J. finds a baseball glove on his way down from the lighthouse. He knows it's not his, but he still takes it. It's not always wrong to keep the things we find, but what should we try to do when we find something valuable that someone has lost?
3. Timothy Owl seems to be giving C.J. some really bad advice. What were some things Timothy told C.J. that you think are wrong? How do you know that they are wrong? What would you have done if you were in C.J.'s place?
4. Why do you think the lighthouse light went out? We know Timothy Owl was a bad influence on C.J. What would you have told C.J. if he said he wanted to skip a few days of taking care of the lighthouse? Why do you think it's important that we choose our friends wisely?
5. Just like the lighthouse mirror, our conscience can become dirty and dim. What can we do to always keep our conscience clean? (Hint: Check out the key verse.) Can you name a time when your conscience guided you to do the right thing?

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Temptation rarely roars in like a locomotive. Most often, it creeps in slowly and quietly like a fog. The old illustration of the frog and the hot water comes to mind. If you place a frog into hot water, he will jump right out. However, being cold blooded, if you slowly heat the water that he's already in, he'll happily sit there as he is cooked alive. That is the nature of temptation and the theme of *The Lighthouse*.

This episode introduces Timothy Owl. At this time, he is merely an interesting character, a "worldly wise" owl. Everything he says is true, for the most part, and he is effective in this role. In subsequent episodes, we have woven him deeply into the overall story arc of *Paws & Tales*. He is a tempter. He is not offensive. He is even funny at times, and occasionally he is downright helpful. Yet he is, in the end, a tempter. I want the kids listening to feel anger at C.J. for not seeing the owl for what he is, a dangerous foe.

Most of the dialogue between C.J. and Timothy Owl is quite similar to conversations we have in our heads when we deal with temptation. It may be reasonable and mostly true at the start, but when we start giving in, the water starts to heat up. In the end we may find ourselves doing things we once could not even imagine.

Sin is not just bad; it is terrible. It is not terrible only when we get caught; it is terrible in its very nature! Sin is rebellion against God. I want to communicate to kids that temptation is not to be trifled with and that sin is always the *enemy*. Sin can cause harm to innocent people, as was illustrated in this episode by the incoming ship. We must be on our guard and learn to absolutely hate sin. This foundational truth is an ongoing theme throughout *Paws & Tales*. Sin is not funny. It is not an occasional "oops." Sin is insidious. It is not something to which we should grow accustomed. If we do, we will wake up one day and realize we are about to be boiled alive.

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