

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



A Conscious Effort

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 sin will find us out

KEY VERSE

"Be sure that your sin will find you out." (Num. 32:23 NIV)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What did C.J. have a chance to play with?
- A: *Staci's new toy—a hurdy-gurdy top*
- Q: Staci said she'd be very unhappy if what happened?
- A: *If something happened to her hurdy-gurdy top*
- Q: What topic was the science lesson on?
- A: *Centrifugal force*
- Q: Who does Staci get to help her investigate who stole the top?
- A: *"Sherlock" Gooz*
- Q: Who does Gooz think took the top?
- A: *The long billed FruFru bird*



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HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: Our desires can be very powerful and at times nearly irresistible. How do we know when to follow them and when to ignore them?

A: We all have a sin nature, even Christians. Because of this we are naturally driven to want to satisfy all our desires, believing that this is the way to happiness and satisfaction. One of the other symptoms of our sin nature is that these desires are generally corrupt. We cannot be certain whether what we want is good for us or disastrous. Many of us have learned that when we really want something—we need it. Some have thought this way for so long that they do not know how to resist a desire, and they are trapped. This is not advice that you would commonly hear . . . do not trust your desires. Though it's humbling to admit, because of our sin nature we do not have the insight, wisdom, or capacity on our own to know what desires we should pursue or not. That's why God stepped in and gave us guidelines, principles, and commands in His Word.

These are amazing gifts. With them, we can determine that we do not need a certain toy or car or house just because we desire it. If something we desire or the way we plan to use it violates God's guidelines for us, we can rest peacefully in the fact that we can now tell these wrong desires to sit down and be quiet.

Q: When I really want something badly, I feel like I will never be happy until I get it. How do I learn to turn wrong desires off?

A: Our current culture has a real problem with this. We have been painstakingly taught through advertising how to feel great desire for things that we will never need. And, once we get them, they go largely unused. It will take training and even transformation to be able to stand against this kind of thinking. As we learn what Christ thought and believed, we can determine to think and believe those things too. Christ was more interested in giving and serving than He was about getting things and being served. He even tells us that it is better to give than receive. He tells us that the first shall be last in the kingdom of God and to love others as much as we love ourselves (Mk. 10:41-45). If we can believe these things and act on them while we pray for God to change us in the process . . . He will (Phil. 2:1-4, 12-13). Soon we will find ourselves caring less and less about silly, flashy things and getting more and more excited about helping others, giving to strangers, and learning to be content with the things we have. God can help us tame our loud, hungry sin nature (2 Cor. 3:17-18).

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“I” CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. Did you ever try to cover up something you did? Was it ever discovered? How did you feel? Did your conscience bother you?
2. Read Hebrews 3:12-15. It is important that we make the right kind of friends. As Christians, we need to surround ourselves with friends that will help us stay away from sin. Do you have any friends that will help you serve God and avoid sin? What can you do to find friends like these? Do you have friends that try to entice you to sin? Why are they your friends?
3. Consider this moral dilemma: Your friend Eric turns in his book report on a mystery novel he recently read. While you are over at his house, you notice what looks like the back cover of a book that has been torn off lying on his dresser. Eric explains that the back of his book tore off while he was on summer vacation. The next day at school, your teacher calls Eric to her desk. She accuses Eric of copying the book description off of the back of the book and using that for his book report. Eric denies that he did anything wrong. Your teacher says that he must bring the book with him to school tomorrow. The next day, Eric brings the book and explains that the back cover got torn off while he was on summer vacation and he lost it. But you know the truth. What do you do? If you tell your teacher what you have seen, Eric will surely get into trouble. You don't know that Eric actually copied the book description off of the back of the book, but you suspect he might have. What do you say to him?



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

First off, I will dispel the rumours. Don't go looking in your local toy store for a hurdy-gurdy. There is no such thing. When Phil Lollar turned in this script, the sound designers began doing research to find out what kind of music a hurdy-gurdy makes. They couldn't find anything. When we asked Phil about it, he simply said, "I made it up." Creative types; what are ya gonna do?

There are at least 37 reasons to avoid any given sin and obey God. The fear of getting caught is an important reason to avoid sin; but as we get older and more sophisticated, we learn ways to avoid getting caught. Then, this fear becomes much less of a reason to turn from sin. On the way, we may conclude that the determining factor on whether or not to sin is based on our chances of getting caught. This is bad thinking and very bad theology. In his classic book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis writes; "I would much rather say that every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature."¹ Every little sin we commit moves us closer to disaster. Every time we rise up and obey God, we become a little closer to Christlikeness.

I would not want anyone to think that getting caught is the only reason for resisting sin. Fear alone is a poor way to raise a godly soul. Fear, however, is a common tool in the hand of an authoritarian leader. It is easy to lay down the rules and spell out the consequences. Once these are done, things are clear—even black and white. If you break one of the rules, you will receive the prescribed punishment. The fear of punishment is the backbone of this plan, the only deciding factor. I simply submit that this is a thin, shallow plan that will probably not work in the long run.

There are, perhaps, 37 reasons not to sin in any given instance. Some are physical; you may get caught and punished, but sin has a way of radiating out and affecting those around you, too. These others may have to suffer the punishment that you cause with your sin, or they could be influenced by your sin and be more willing to do it themselves. The other reasons, the more important reasons, are spiritual. Unrepented sin will change your soul for the worse; it can separate you from God. It can remove God's hand of protection from you, and it can create openings for Satan to get a foothold in your life. If we, as parents and teachers, only use the fear of getting caught as a reason to avoid sin, we do a disservice to our kids. We would do well to help our kids understand as many reasons as possible. There are at least 37 reasons to avoid any given sin and obey God.

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