

# TOOLS FOR PARENTS



## I'm a Believer

### 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

Easter is a time for rejoicing

#### KEY VERSE

**"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Pet. 1:3 NIV)**

#### EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What did Paw Paw Chuck say was wrong with C.J.?  
A: *He was bored*
- Q: What did Paw Paw Chuck and C.J. see in the forest?  
A: *A stage for a travelling acting troupe*
- Q: Satan tried to get Jesus to turn the stones into what?  
A: *Bread*
- Q: What did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on?  
A: *A colt*
- Q: What did C.J. do when Jesus finally died?  
A: *He cried*

#### HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

- Q: Why was Jesus willing to go through everything that led up to dying on the cross?**
- A: *This answer is difficult to grasp: Jesus died for us because He passionately loves us and wants us to be with Him forever. This is not a mystery; the Bible tells us of His love clearly (Jn. 3:16-17). But His passion for us is hard to understand when we realize we are selfish and rebellious, we want what we want, and we hate to obey. In short we are desperately sinful. Yet Jesus died an agonizing death for us while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8). His death and resurrection was the only way we could be saved from sin and hell, and He died for us simply because He loves us.*

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**Q: It seems very mean that God sent His Son to die. Why didn't He come and die Himself?**

A: We're about to get into very deep theology, so hang on. Although there is one eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, holy, just, loving, true, and unchangeable God, in the unity of the one God there are three divine persons—God the Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit—equal in power and distinct in roles. Because Jesus is fully God and fully human, we can say that God, in a very real way, did come to earth and die Himself. He didn't just sit in His big chair and send His Son to do a dirty job. God in all three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—suffered in order to save us. God loves us that much.

### "I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. Does your family celebrate Easter? What do you do to remember Jesus' death and resurrection? Is there someone who needs to know about the story of Jesus whom you could invite to celebrate Easter with you?
2. Some Christians call Easter Resurrection Sunday. In your own words, explain why Jesus' resurrection is so important.
3. Read 1 Peter 1:3–9. What does Peter say is the goal of our faith? What does he say Christ's resurrection gives us?
4. Activity—Make a list of some of the things you have done wrong. Now draw a cross through the list. Read Colossians 2:13-14. The cross you have drawn represents Jesus' sacrifice, taking the sins of the world as His own and dying so that God could offer His forgiveness and the gift of eternal life to those who believe in Jesus. Take some time in prayer to thank God for the gift of Jesus and His death on the cross. Thank Him that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. Tell Him that you are sorry for the things on your list, and ask Him to forgive you. Tell God that you want Jesus to guide you and direct your life. And He will!

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### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In light of Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ*, the episode *I'm a Believer* is intended to be "The Passion of the Christ for Kids." In this episode, written by Phil Lollar, C.J. has heard the Easter story for years and is too familiar with it to be very interested. However, when a drama troupe comes to town C.J. and Paw Paw Chuck find themselves surrounded by a re-enactment of the last days and hours of the life of Christ. C.J., like many of us, knew the facts of the story but did not understand the sacrifice and the suffering involved. It is imperative for a believer to grapple with these concepts. That is why we made this episode.

One of the things I ponder as I attempt to teach spiritual things to kids is how difficult it is to speak to a soul. Our culture has done quite well at speaking to the mind by delivering data. Data alone, however, does not often change a heart. I have come to the conclusion that as Christians, we need to spend more time focusing on how to learn to love God. The question then arises, *How do I love God, let alone try to get a third grader to love Him?* The answer lies, I believe, in the area of the arts.

We need to talk to the soul in a way that the soul can hear. Music can do this, stories can do this, and beauty can do this. To hear the facts of the crucifixion can be a dry, medical exercise. To experience the suffering of Christ through a carefully crafted story can touch the soul. What must be communicated here is not just that some man died a long time ago, but that Jesus chose to suffer humiliation, pain, and even death for me. Once this has taken hold of our hearts, only then can we begin to grasp the deep love of our Lord for us. Then—and I believe only then—can the deep mysteries of the Bible begin to unfold to us. The things that did not make sense to us before become things that we will now live and die for. For instance, when we begin to understand the deep love of God for us, His desire to forgive our sins is suddenly possible to comprehend. We are finally able to trust that His laws and principles are not a barrier to our happiness, but a gift. In fact, they are a road map to peace, joy, patience, and all the good and pure things our hearts truly desire. When we begin to understand the deep love of God for us, we begin to see things more as God sees them; to hate the things God hates, and to love the things God loves. In short, spiritual transformation becomes possible.

I encourage you to listen with your children to the *Paws & Tales* episode *I'm a Believer*. Together, let your hearts be drawn to the deep love of our Saviour, and respond out of a greater desire to return His love.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Carl'.

David B. Carl  
Creative Director  
*Paws & Tales*