

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



Love Hopes

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

Love hopes all things

KEY VERSE

"[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." (1 Cor. 13:7-8)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What does Hugh tell Staci he wants to be?
A: *Good*
- Q: What does Hugh say he wants to join?
A: *The Club*
- Q: Why does Hugh say he would like to be in The Club by Friday?
A: *He wants to be able to tell his father on his father's birthday*
- Q: What is Mr. Rockler planning to do?
A: *Blast a tunnel through the mountain to allow the train to travel more quickly to Wildwood*
- Q: What bet did Mange and Moltey make with Hugh?
A: *That he couldn't get The Club to make him a member*

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: If I actually do show concern and kindness to a mean person, am I guaranteed that he or she will be grateful and stop being so mean?

A: *Absolutely not. In fact, he or she may get meaner. Being a Christian does not guarantee that things will always be super-duper for us. Many times things are tougher after we become Christians, but all the really good things—the things God promises—far outweigh the tough things (Rom. 8:28). All lifeguards are told in training that the drowning people they are attempting to save might panic. They may even push the lifeguard under the water as they struggle to survive. However, drowning people still need saving, so the lifeguards are trained to*

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deal with their reactions. We can't just swim away from a drowning person, and we can't just walk away from someone who needs to hear about Jesus. Don't let fear or anger push you under. Your endurance will be worth it one day—maybe not today, and maybe not tomorrow, but one day. Never give up on anyone who needs saving.

Q: How many chances do we have to give mean people?

A: We always need to give people another chance (Matt. 18:21-35). Now, that doesn't mean we should allow people to steal from us or believe their lies over and over again. We need to be cautious when others deceive us, but we can't give up on the chance that one day they will come to realize that they are deeply loved by God. One of the best ways to communicate God's love is to show them that we love them. It's our secret weapon! People who are mean and nasty can't understand how we can still care about them (Rom. 12:20-21). It drives them nuts! They will very likely want to know why we still want to be friends with them and why we still care about what happens to them. They'll see a tiny glimpse of the love God has for them.

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. When was the last time someone did something mean to you? What did you do about it? Were you ever able to trust that person again? Why, or why not? Have you forgiven him or her? Why, or why not?
2. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What do you think Jesus means when He says we must forgive people up to "70 times seven" times? What do you think is the difference between forgiving someone for something and trusting him or her in the future? Do you think Jesus means that we must trust someone up to "70 times seven" times? Why, or why not?
3. What about your friends causes you to trust them? What about God causes you to trust Him?

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Have you ever wondered why we are not taken up to heaven the minute we accept Christ in our hearts? We stay here because there is work to do. There are fellow believers to serve, unbelievers to serve, stories to tell, and our lives to share. As Christians, we have a tendency to forget this. It is easy to get into the habit of avoiding people who do not agree with us and do not believe what we believe. To extend ourselves to those like Hugh McClaw demands risk. We will be scoffed at, perhaps laughed at, and occasionally disappointed by the results, but that is part of the work God has given us. Hugh needs Christ, but he needs someone to help him find Christ.

In this episode, the soil of Hugh's heart is hard and not ready to receive the seed of God's truth and salvation. Many are like that; in fact, most of us were like that. We did not grasp what Christ was offering the first time we heard about His gift of salvation and abundant life. Even later, when we understood more about His gift, most of us didn't want it, so we resisted the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

It may take a long while for a heart to come to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and it may require the help of many Christians along the way. It is not our job to convert anyone; it is our job to tell our story, and more importantly, to tell Christ's story. We are to bear witness—that's all and that's enough.

Then comes the second part. Christ tells us that people will know we are Christ's followers by our love for each other (Jn. 13:35). We are not just supposed to be "right," we are supposed to be characterized by love. Love for God, love for His creation, love for our fellow Christians, but also love for those who do not love us (Matt. 5:43-49). This command has often been misunderstood and either followed badly or not followed at all out of utter confusion. We are not to be dummies that go around approving of everything so that people will feel good and loved. That would be like a doctor going through a sick ward and handing out candy instead of helping patients actually get better. Love hopes because we as Christians have love for the "Hughs" around us. We want the best for them—not just happy feelings but the healing, forgiveness, and the relationship with God that Christ alone offers.

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

David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales

