

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



CJ and Ahab

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

Envy is a destructive force

KEY VERSE

“Do not let your heart envy sinners, But live in the fear of the Lord always.” (Prov. 23:17)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What new item is Ned playing ball with?
A: *A new baseball glove*
- Q: What item is C.J. determined to get?
A: *Ned's baseball signed by "Gentleman" George Baxter*
- Q: What does King Ahab ask from Naboth?
A: *King Ahab asks Naboth to give him his vineyard*
- Q: What do the worthless men claim that Naboth did wrong?
A: *They falsely accuse Naboth of blasphemy*
- Q: What does Paw Paw Chuck tell C.J. to do every time he feels envious?
A: *To pray that he'll only want what God desires for him*

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: Sometimes I want something so much that it's all I can think about. Doesn't that mean I should go after it?

A: *Desires are tricky things. We need to realize that they are like little pet monsters that want to be fed all of the time. But, instead of becoming satisfied when you feed them, like they promise, these monsters will grow until they are completely out of control. They will become stronger than they should be and will dictate what you think and care about. Your desires will try to make you feel as though you will never be happy until you give in to them. Desires need to be tamed, or they will take over your life. To complicate things even more, some of our desires are not monsters at all. They are good, helpful, and even God-given. These are the desires that we should feed regularly.*

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God wants you to grow these desires and listen to them. The tough part is figuring out which desires are good and which are like little monsters trying to gain control. That is why God gave us the rules and laws in the Bible. King David said in Psalm 119:20, "My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times" (NIV). David understood that he could avoid harm and disaster by following God's ways rather than his own desires. That's one of the reasons why King David loved to obey God's laws. He trusted that God knew what was best for him.

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. If we're honest with ourselves, we can all name things that we are envious of in others. Can you list some things that others have that you wish you had? Why do you wish you had these things? Do you spend a lot of time wishing you had these things for yourself? One of the things we can do to avoid the sin of envy is to confess to God the things we envy, ask Him for forgiveness from this sin, and then ask Him to help you desire only what He wants for you. Are you willing to do this now?
2. What is the difference between jealousy and envy? Look up both words in the dictionary, and explain what the differences are.
3. Read James 3:13-18. What are some ways you can be a "sower of peace" in your school, home, and church?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:8-12. Can you be envious of another person if you love that person as your brother or sister, showing him or her humility and compassion? Is there someone in your life to whom you can show love this week? Make a plan to do it.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Desire is a monster with which we have become comfortable. We have been told that always wanting more is simply part of living life to the fullest, "grabbing the gusto." This is a lie. To fulfil any and all of our desires may feel like ultimate freedom, but it is actually the most profound sort of slavery. We often act as though our desires are the magnetic north of our lives. A desire wells up, and we involuntarily spin around and move in whatever direction will satisfy it best. Sometimes we allow our desires to become the commanding forces, the decision makers, in our lives. We allow this because we believe that the more we fulfil our desires, the more satisfied we will be. That is a lie from the pit of hell. One of the reasons that many Christians remain immature and ineffective is that they have never learned to question their desires. Because of our fallen, sinful nature, our desires are tainted and corrupted. They often demand things that are stupid and destructive. We must learn to be suspicious of our desires and filter them before we act. One of the things that Christ came to teach us is that, as children of God, we are no longer slaves to our desires. This is one of the great aspects of the abundant life Christ promised us. With God's help, we really can simply tell our desires to sit down and shut up. With the clear direction of Scripture, we can be certain that regardless of how loudly a desire shouts, we can determine whether it is good and should be pursued or wrong and harmful and should be denied.

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

David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales

