

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



The Least of All

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

All things are possible with God

KEY VERSE

“With God all things are possible.” (Matt. 19:26)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What does Marsha think that they should begin collecting for the hungry people in Wildwood?
A: Food
- Q: What story does Paw Paw Chuck tell Marsha she should listen to on the cylinder player?
A: The story of Gideon
- Q: Who appeared to Gideon to charge him with saving the Israelites?
A: An angel of the Lord
- Q: What did Gideon put on the threshing floor to see if God would help him save Israel?
A: A fleece
- Q: How many Israelites did God use to defeat the entire Midianite army?
A: Only 300

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: What kind of person will God use to accomplish great things?

A: *God uses people who are obedient. Sometimes He uses rich, powerful, and talented people, but perhaps more often He uses regular people like you and me . . . and like Gideon. The important thing is not that you are the most successful, intelligent, or wealthy person for the job; it's that you love God (Mk. 12:29-30). And He asks that you obey Him—fully, even if you don't understand all the reasons why (Jn. 14:15). Work to be loving and obedient—and God will use you!*

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Q: How do I know if God is calling me to do something?

A: An angel of the Lord spoke directly to Gideon. But this was a very rare experience. God usually speaks to His people in other ways—through His Word, through other Christians, through circumstances, and through the Holy Spirit. When you feel in your heart that God is calling you to do something, take time to pray about it. Search His Word for confirmation. Speak with other believers whom you trust. And keep your eyes open—He will make His will clear.

Let's look at a couple of things that we can be certain God has called us to do. God has called us to bring glory to His name, to serve others, and to encourage, teach, and bless others. When you feel compassion for someone else, follow up on it with some action. When you see someone in need, help him or her. Look for opportunities to share God's love.

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. C.J., Staci, and Marsha had good ideas about meeting the needs of the hungry people in Wildwood, but they thought they couldn't do anything because they're young. Have you ever wanted to do something but couldn't because of your age? How did you feel about it? Name some things kids can't do until they are adults. Why do you think age is a factor in preventing them from doing those things?
2. Read 1 Timothy 4:12. Marsha didn't let being a kid stop her from doing something about the burden God had placed on her heart. If you didn't let age get in your way, what are some things you think you could accomplish in your home, school, town, church, or even nation?
3. The point of this episode is to remind us that God equips us to do what He has called us to do. Even when a task seems impossible, God can help us do it. Ask three people you know if they remember any stories of men, women, or children who accomplished something that seemed impossible.



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This episode tells the story of Gideon, one of the great stories in the Bible (Jgs. 6-8). Marsha's calling to help the needy in Wildwood is similar to the impossible task Gideon faced in beating back the Midianites. The principle behind both of these stories is huge. We constantly need to be reminded that the battle is always the Lord's. When God uses one of us, He requires obedience above all else. Our strength, charisma, and other abilities may be useful, but they are not sufficient to the task He has in mind. A great deal of children's programming teaches that if we believe in our dreams enough, they will come true. Our kids often pick up this kind of bad theology without knowing it. They don't even know that it's theology or that it's bad. Even if we momentarily accept this concept, it raises the question, "What if the 'dreams' we have for ourselves are not the plans God has for us?" By following our dreams without committing them to the Lord, we could easily, perhaps even at a very young age, pit our will against God's without even realizing it (Prov. 16:3). Our kids don't need to be encouraged to follow their dreams apart from Christ. Instead they need to be inspired to seek after God and discover His plans for them—better plans that are certainly more important than they would have for themselves anyway.

God inspired Marsha to follow His plans through her compassion. This kind of compassion and the corresponding passion to do something needs to be nurtured in a child. Adults have an annoying habit of trying to make kids think practically. Our common sense can interfere with God's plans. We fear our kids will try something and fail. Many times the end result is not the point. Often when we are pursuing some grand goal, God will change our course and reveal the path He had in mind for us all along. We think it is about reaching the goal line, when it is really about obedience and becoming more like Christ.

"Laying out the fleece" is one of the major aspects of Gideon's story (Jgs. 6:36-40). Growing up, I thought this was a shameful act of disbelief. However, when you read the story in the Bible, you find that God never gets impatient or irritated by Gideon's fear. After all, he had reason to be afraid, for this was an impossible task! I think Gideon's story gives us great room to entrust our fears to God and ask for additional encouragement and support while we are learning. This is where God wants us to be. This is the place where God can use us the most effectively.

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

David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales