

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



The Plans I Have

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

God is our rock in times of change

KEY VERSE

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (Jn. 10:10)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What happened to the church during the service?
- A: *The roof caved in*

- Q: What did Miss Harbor announce to the class?
- A: *Because of Wildwood's growth, the classroom would be split into two classes*

- Q: What news did Staci's mom share with Staci?
- A: *She's pregnant*

- Q: Who did Staci's father say is in control of their future?
- A: *God*

- Q: Who was trapped inside the church when it collapsed?
- A: *Gooz's brother, Willy*

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: When difficult changes happen in my life, do they mean that God is angry with me?

A: *Changes happen all the time; they are an unavoidable part of life. If you are following Christ, you can be sure that everything that happens to you has been carefully designed and allowed by God Himself (Ps. 55:22; Jer. 29:11). And remember, change will not always be easy, and you may not understand the reason behind it. But if you trust God and His plan for your life, every change will draw you closer to Him (Heb. 12:7-13).*

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Q: My biggest problem with change is that I don't know what to do next. How should I handle change?

A: The unknown is actually the major element of change. And it's tough to deal with. Most of the time, when God tells us to go somewhere or do something, it is very unclear how things will turn out. Don't be afraid; that's normal. It's the way we learn to trust Him, to go forward, and to be obedient. God will allow us to see the big picture one day—but probably not today. Learning to trust God in spite of the unknowns of life is a healthy part of spiritual growth.

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. Sometimes change can be a difficult thing. Name some changes that have happened to you or your family in the last year. Did you struggle with the changes? Based on what you learned from listening to the episode, what are some things you can do to better handle change?
2. When some people experience change in their lives, they assume that God is angry with them. But that is not necessarily true. We don't always know why things happen to us, but we do know that God is in control. Read Matthew 10:29, 31 and Romans 8:28, 31-39. Do you believe that God loves you? Do you believe He wants what is best for you? Write out these verses on a card or construction paper and place them somewhere in your room. Whenever you encounter difficult or painful experiences, read these verses to remind you of God's love.
3. Read the following verses and make a list of the attributes of God.

1 Samuel 15:29

Psalms 27:1

Psalms 119:90

Isaiah 54:10

Isaiah 55:9

Lamentations 3:22-23

Malachi 3:6

Hebrews 13:8



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Change is hard. I am all for things getting better—in the way I have in mind—but change is often out of my control. It seems that God works in seasons. There are times, even generations, when things go along pretty evenly with little variation. Then there is a dramatic change, a change in governments, a change in finances or location, a death in or an addition to the family. Real change can bring with it two things: the unknown and pain. Sometimes they both come at the same time. I have no affection for the unknown, and I like pain even less. But deep inside I know that these things are not the enemy. Christ came so that we could be transformed, and that is like change on steroids. The Christian life is all about change, so we might as well get used to it.

In the past, I have prayed for clear, and I mean crystal clear, direction for my life— direction such as Joshua got when he led the nation of Israel into the Promised Land. His job description was to go in, wipe out the people who lived there, and take their land (Josh.1:1-5). Not particularly pleasant and, without a doubt, a difficult and dangerous mission. But the direction was crystal clear. I have come to realize that very few people get that kind of single-minded, lifelong direction. Moses thought he had it just before he was sent into the desert to tend sheep. Just as he gave in and decided that his life was going to be about tending sheep—God told him to go back to Egypt to set his people free. For years Abraham was led from place to place with no overall goal other than complete obedience to God. I think we want an overall direction, a “polar north” for our lives. We want to barrel through life with certainty, with utter confidence in our mission, avoiding anything that might get in our way. That very mission, however, can quickly become the guiding force in our lives instead of God Himself. When this happens, the results are often disastrous.

Scripture commands us to be humble (1 Pet. 5:6). Most people think that humility is living with an attitude of utter inferiority. That could not be further from what God wants for us. Abraham’s humility showed in his willingness to simply obey. Abraham was powerful and rich, and he did not sit around all day calling himself bad names. His confidence was in God. And if God wanted him to experience a change, that was fine with him! Humility is basically using God as our “polar north”; if He moves, we move with Him. The point is not to have a lack of confidence but to have confidence in the right thing. As disciples of Christ, our confidence should be in Him. Change is hard, but it will happen. Consequently, I want to quit fighting it so hard and instead let the pain and the unknown draw me closer to God.

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

David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales