

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



The Truth about Truth

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

Learning to love truth

KEY VERSE

“Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.” (Ps. 26:2-3 NIV)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What does Staci bring Alma?
A: A basket of cookies
- Q: Who is the new person that The Club meets at the construction site?
A: Newton
- Q: What does Alma teach Staci how to do?
A: Knit
- Q: How does C.J. react when he finds out Newton stole from Mr. Crawford's store?
A: He gets upset, but doesn't tell the truth about it right away when Mr. Crawford confronts them
- Q: What does Mr. Crawford say to do when you become aware of lies?
A: Mr. Crawford tells The Club not to be patient and polite with lies because God hates lying

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: When someone believes different things than I do, how do I know who is right?

A: *The truths we Christians believe were not made up around a campfire one night; they were given to us by God through His Word, the Bible. We can be confident that the Bible is true (2 Pet. 1:20-21). In fact, we can live our lives based on its truth (Ps. 119:98-100; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). The Bible even proves itself to be true in the lives of believers (1 Thess. 2:13).*

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Other religions that are in conflict with the truths of Scripture are not true. Yes, it is all right to say that. In fact, it's our duty. If others around us were planning to drink paint thinner because they thought it was water, we would try to stop them. We would tell them that it is not water. We would tell them that it would hurt them if they were to drink it. In the same way, believing the truth of Scripture is not simply a matter of opinion—it is an issue of survival.

Q: What if I have been raised to believe something that isn't addressed in the Bible?

A: There are three categories to keep in mind here. One is absolute truth—scriptural truth that we can trust. Another is the opposite of truth—lies, things that are false, wrong, or against biblical teaching. The third category involves the area of opinion. Opinions aren't necessarily wrong in and of themselves. And many opinions do make sense. But if we can't actually support a particular belief with Scripture, then we need to treat it as an opinion rather than as truth. And we need to remember that opinions should be held with humility. It can be difficult at times to tell the difference between truth and opinion, but we should always be open to the realization that we have held too tightly to an opinion and be willing to let it go or at least take it less seriously.

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. Telling the truth isn't always easy, but remember, it's what God wants us to do. Explain why it is important to always tell the truth.
2. There is relief in confessing what you have done wrong, even if it means taking the punishment you deserve. How do you think you would feel if you always told the truth? How do you think others would treat you if you always told the truth?
3. When we sin and ask for forgiveness from the person we have offended and from God, does God keep record of our wrongs? When someone has asked us for forgiveness, should we forgive and forget? In your own words, why it is important to forgive?

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

We Christians have had a spotty history with truth. We have held tightly to things that we believed to be true but were false. Galileo was excommunicated for saying that the earth rotated around the sun. At that time, the Roman Catholic Church held that Scripture indicated that the earth was the centre of all things; therefore the sun must rotate around the earth. But we now know that Galileo was right. Throughout history, churches have split and wars have been waged because some thought that something was true and others did not. Many of these things would seem laughable to us now. But we still act this way. There are many things that we can absolutely know from Scripture, but there are also jumping-off spots where it is appropriate to extrapolate what the Bible is saying. Let's just say it: we make a guess, hopefully an educated guess, but a guess nonetheless. We have to. Ministers make this leap most every time they preach because there are just too many ways that language fails us, too many times when it seems that there should be a few more verses to fully explain a difficult section. When I engage in theological discussions with a few close friends, I have started ringing a bell in my office when we are extrapolating beyond what Scripture is saying. I repeat, we absolutely have to extrapolate sometimes, but I think it is critical that we know when we are jumping off of what the Bible clearly says is true into the arena of "therefore I believe this verse says . . ." When I get to that point, I want to be aware of it and give my opinion humbly, knowing that there is room, perhaps even lots of room, for different or opposing views. Some things are true, really true. I call them "true-truth". These are things to go to war over. But the things we extrapolate from Scripture should never be included in that list.

Then there is the other side of the coin—one that is increasingly common these days—the notion that there is no real truth. I cannot decide which is more dangerous and harmful, believing too many things are true-truth or having no truth at all. I just want to stay as far away as possible from both. If you believe there is no truth, you are left to just make it up. Now, that may sound pretty fun, but if you are making truth up as you go, the only certain thing you can count on is that you will likely end up with no truth. If you were to decide to make up the laws of physics, you would probably die. If you were to decide that the laws of the land did not apply to you, it would only be a matter of time before you ended up in prison. In the same way, you cannot make up what is true and what is not. That's one of the reasons God gave us the Bible—we desperately need to know what is true. When we find true-truth we should treat it in the same way King David did. He loved it, he thanked God for it, he treasured it, and he hid it in his heart so that it would change him. Our kids will most likely find this kind of passion for truth to be a very foreign concept. They will not learn it from the world around us, so they must look to us. We must search for true-truth, and when we find it we must grab it, defend it, and let it soak into our hearts. This is perhaps the only way we can teach our kids to love truth.

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

David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales