

## Everything Is an Invitation

### 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

We Can Lean on God in Hard Times

#### KEY VERSE

**And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (Romans 8:28)**

#### EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

Q: What exciting news does Staci want to tell the class at Share-and-Tell?

A: *Staci's mother is going to have a baby.*

Q: Why did Mr. Rockler buy the old coal mine?

A: *To dig a train tunnel through the mountain.*

Q: What does McDowell say was discovered in the tunnel?

A: *Gold*

Q: What is Staci's baby brother's name?

A: *Jonathan*

Q: What makes Staci's baby brother special?

A: *He was born with Down Syndrome*

## Everything Is an Invitation

### QUESTIONS FOR CUBS

#### HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

**Q: Staci's baby brother, Jonathan, was born with Down Syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes a range of developmental delays and physical disabilities. Nana Cindy told Marsha that it's okay to feel sad. Why is it important to express our sadness?**

A: When we express sadness, we draw closer to the Lord and feel His comfort. The psalmist described God's heart of compassion for us when we hurt: "You keep track of my sorrows. You have collected my tears in your bottle" (Psalm 56:8). Even Jesus cried when He felt sad (John 11:35), so He understands our feelings. By expressing sadness, we understand the extent of our pain and experience deeply God's tender mercies.

**Q: Read the key verse, Romans 8:28. How might God cause a birth disorder such as Down Syndrome to "work together for the good of those who love God"?**

A: If we truly believe that God loves us, then we will see every circumstance as an "invitation" to walk closer to Him. Trials can press you closer to God. Also, trials can connect you with others who feel sad with you. The episode ends with the members of the church talking about how they will love Jonathan and support Stacie's family.

Jonathan was a special gift from God. His disability opened the door for everyone to experience a richer and more grace-oriented life—a true blessing.

#### "I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. Do you know anyone with Down Syndrome or other special need? How might you show love and support to this person or this person's family? Parents, for more helpful information on ministry to people with special needs, click [Insight for Living's Reframing Ministry](#).
2. When you face disappointment, what can you pray to draw near to the Lord? For example, "Heavenly Father, I really hoped I would be in my best friend's class. I don't know anyone in my class. Will you go with me to my new class? Amen." What prayer can you pray in your current trial?
3. Look around at the recent events in your life. What "invitations" from the Lord do you see? What open doors do you find to lean on God who loves you?

## Everything Is an Invitation

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.*

*—A.W. Tozer<sup>1</sup>*

If we think that God is angry all the time and we feel afraid of Him, then we will instinctively move away from God. If we think God is otherwise occupied and only occasionally cares what is going on down here, then we will feel the need to do extraordinary things to get His distracted attention. If, however, we have a properly biblical understanding that God LOVES His children, well then, that changes everything.

Knowing and experiencing God's love makes us want to run to Him. We run to Him when we're in trouble. We run to Him when things go really well, and we thank Him and praise Him. Hard times move us toward the God who loves us, and we ask for His direction. We seek to find out what this difficult thing or week or season is all about.

When you live in the truth that God is just crazy about you, you will instinctively know that everything that comes—good stuff, hard stuff, and really hard stuff—will be used somehow to bring you closer into the arms of God. As a child of God, you want that desperately, and God wants that far more than you do. A flat tire in the rain no longer makes you want to shake your fist at God and shout at Him in anger for this attack on you and your poor tire. It can be received with wonder at what God is up to. Maybe God is up to some plan to bless you or to bless someone else. A flat tire in the rain becomes a wet, perhaps cold, invitation to move toward the God of the Bible who is just crazy about you. When you can receive the truth that as a child of God, God is just nuts about you . . . everything will become an invitation.



David B. Carl  
Creative Director  
Paws & Tales



<sup>1</sup> A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (New York: HarperCollins, 1978), 1.