

I'm Starting to see Red

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 Eager to Forgive.

KEY VERSE

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37–39)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

Q: Where were C.J. and his friends looking for treasure?

A: *Mr. Collins' mansion.*

Q: Where did Ned go to meet Timothy Owl?

A: *The mineshaft.*

Q: Who also came to meet Timothy Owl?

A: *Tiffany*

Q: In the Bible story, what did Jesus ask Peter by the campfire?

A: *Jesus asked, "Do you love me?"*

Q: According to Gooz, one of the first things we need to know about God is what?

A: *"God is just crazy in love with His children."*

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HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter denied that he knew the Lord because he was afraid of being arrested too (Matthew 26:69-75). After the resurrection, Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where He asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" (John 21:15-17). Why did Jesus want Peter to affirm his love for Jesus?

A: In the episode, Paw Paw Chuck explained, "It was hard for Peter to believe Jesus could forgive him because he didn't understand just how much Jesus adored him." Sometimes, we are like Peter. We feel bad when we sin, and we may think that God is upset with us. Nothing could be further from the truth. God's love for us never wavers, even when we sin and do things that aren't good for us. Read the key verses, Romans 8:37-39.

Q: Not only does God forgive us when we confess our sins to Him (1 John 1:9), He is eager to forgive us. Why is God so willing to forgive His children when they confess their sins?

A: In the episode, Gooz explained the reason God eagerly forgives: "God loves His children. It's about relationship. When we sin, we hurt ourselves but not God's love for us. He wants us back in His arms and back enjoying Him, so He is eager to forgive."

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. We sin when we do anything that Jesus wouldn't do, like hurt someone or steal something or tell a lie. Is there any sin you need to confess to God? If so, what is it?
2. What do we say to God in prayer when we confess a sin?
3. If we offended someone when we sinned, how do we make it right with that person?
4. God loves even when we do things our way and not His way. When we confess our sins, He eagerly forgives us. Why?

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

How much does God love you? I have asked that question to a number of guys who are really struggling. I heard one guy respond, "On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd say a 2." Another person thought a moment and offered up this answer, "Somewhere between a 4 and 6, depending on how the week is going." What would your answer be? The answers I heard surprised me because they were answering a question I did not ask. They were answering the question, "How much do you *feel* God's love." Their numbers ranged accordingly. What I asked was this, "How much does God love you?" The answer to that question is the same today, yesterday, any day in the future, no matter what sin you just sinned or how badly you let God down. The answer is always 10. God loves you 10.

What confuses us about God's love is our own inconsistency. It's as if we have a meter that tracks how much and how often we sin. It's always going up and down, depending on the situation. We falsely assume that the "God Loves Me" meter mechanically follows the trends of our "My Sin" meter. When we sin a lot, we assume God loves us less, and the "God Loves Me" meter sinks. When we are really good for a really long time, the "God Loves Me" meter slowly goes back up. I have good news: *These two meters have no connection to each other.* Nothing. No data cable, no mechanical arm between them. If you sin, then God loves you 10. When you are doing well God loves you 10. This is not to say that it doesn't matter whether or not you sin. It matters in a huge way, just not in a way that diminishes God's love for you.

When you sin, you turn your back on God. He remains facing you with His arms outstretched. Because you have turned away from God, you cannot receive the love He is offering. You cannot benefit from the nourishment for your soul that He wants to provide. Under

these conditions, you are susceptible to feeling hellish amounts of shame. Sin damages your body, mind, and spirit. BUT if you just turn around and fall into the loving arms of God He will absolutely scoop you up because—well, God loves you 10!



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