

Powers and Principalities

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

Spiritual battles require spiritual preparation

KEY VERSE

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.” (Ps. 23:1)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: Where does the man say the train is supposed to go?
A: *Right through The Fort*
- Q: What does Mr. Rockler agree to do for The Club?
A: *Build them a new fort on the lake*
- Q: What does Miss Harbor say they should have everyone sign?
A: *A petition to oppose the demolition of The Fort*
- Q: What does Paw Paw Chuck say Fortress Rock is the key to?
A: *Shadow Valley*
- Q: What does Ned say battling against powers and principalities is like?
A: *Like fighting invisible aliens*

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: The idea that there are powers and principalities out there sounds scary. Should I be afraid of what I can't see?

A: *It is critical that you be aware that there is a spiritual realm; there really are angels and demons. But the good news is that as a child of God we do not have to be afraid at all. God is in control, and He will protect us. However these demons do whisper in our ears and lie to us. They try to deceive us and tell us that we need things we should not have. They tell us to do things that we should not do. That is why we need to be on guard against them. And that is what the armour of God is all about (Eph. 6:10-20).*

QUESTIONS FOR CUBS

Q: In school we learn that things are real only if we can observe them and study them scientifically. How can I know that there really is more to this world than what I can see?

A: If you couldn't see, it would be impossible to know that butterflies actually fly. You can't hear them fly, and you can't feel them fly by you. The fact that you don't have the sense of sight needed to experience a flying butterfly does not mean they don't flit through the air. You can feel a butterfly tiptoe across your hand, and you might feel it jump off. It then becomes an act of faith when your parent (or trusted friend) tells you that it flew away. The spiritual realm is very similar to this. We can observe a few truths on our own with the senses we have, but then we need to trust God through the Bible to fill in some of the blanks for us. This is the way faith works.

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. In these verses the Apostle Paul writes about a real struggle that Christians face. It is important to know that God wants us to be prepared and protected for when we face spiritual battles. We shouldn't be afraid because God is on our side, and He has provided us spiritual armour to protect us, and holy weapons to use to fight against the enemy. Make a list of all of the pieces of armour mentioned in these verses. Draw a picture of what you think these pieces would look like if they were actually pieces of armour you might wear.
2. Ask three Christian people you respect to tell you about a time when they had a spiritual battle that they had to fight. What things did they do to deal with the situations? Are there similarities in their stories? How did God equip them to deal with the challenges they faced? Ask them if they would do anything differently the next time they faced a spiritual battle.
3. What things do you think Satan tries to do to keep Christians from being effective in their lives?

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I must admit that the truth of this episode makes me uncomfortable. I know, because the Bible teaches it clearly, that there is a spiritual realm that is swimming with angels and demons. This realm is real. It's where the important battles are won and lost. If we succeed in the flesh but not spiritually, all is lost. I know all of this, and I am still uncomfortable saying out loud that this realm is real. I think that's primarily because it seems so fantastic and otherworldly. It's also because I don't want to scare the kids. Yet this is the irony. If we understand this truth the way God wants us to, there is nothing to be afraid of.

In this episode, we used the imagery of invisible aliens to give the kids a hook on which to mentally hang their hats. I wanted to be clear that to be ignorant of wicked spirits is to concede victory to them before the battle ever begins. Our kids must know and believe. I also wanted to be doubly clear that these evil spirits are helpless before the power of Christ. This episode is the first of a series that will explore the armour of God. I feel that this is a terribly important concept where we usually only scratch the surface. My lack of peace with these spiritual aspects belies my own lack of understanding. It is my guess that this is true of many of you also. One of the amazing things about teaching is that, at times, the teacher learns more than the student. It has truly happened that way for me, and I anticipate more to come. I have also found a great deal of help on this topic from the book *Spiritual Warfare* by Ray C. Stedman. I highly recommend it.

As is true of all *Paws & Tales* episodes, it is my desire that C.J.'s journey be an example for the kids who listen. Some serious spiritual decisions are coming for C.J., and he needs to be clear about how high the stakes are. Our kids have spiritual battles ahead too. They need to be preparing for them now. The most important battles they will face are not getting good grades or avoiding mischief. The truly important battles are about realizing their spiritual condition and learning what God desires for them. Satan's first line of attack is not to turn us into vile devil worshippers but to simply distract us from truth. That is why we needed to tell this story, and we need to tell more stories like it. My prayer is that together we continue to learn that the spiritual realm is completely real and even more important than what we see in front of us every day.



David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales