

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



The Warriors

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

Prayer Is Our Most Effective Weapon against Evil

KEY VERSE

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

Q: Why did C.J., Ned, Paw Paw Chuck, and Theo (C.J.'s dad) go into Wild Mountain?

A: *To go fishing.*

Q: The boys heard a stranger named Mendle call for help. What had happened to him?

A: *He had been beaten up because he refused to follow Minion's orders and pour poison into the town's water source.*

Q: What did the girls find while exploring Mr. Collin's mansion?

A: *A dagger (small sword) with a bejeweled belt that fit Stacie perfectly.*

Q: Who will rescue the prisoners of Shadow Valley?

A: *A deliverer known only as "The One."*

Q: Who are the Warriors and what do they do to defeat the forces of darkness?

A: *Mrs. Collins' Bible study group. They pray for God to protect the town and the folks who live there.*

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HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: So far in Paws & Tales, we don't know for certain the identity of "The One" who will set free the prisoners of Shadow Valley. The Bible, however, clearly names the One who set us free from the curse of sin. What did Jesus do to free humankind from sin?

A: Jesus offered Himself on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. He bore our judgment and "freed us from the penalty of our sins" (Romans 3:24).

Q: Shadow Valley represents the spiritual darkness of our world. By sending His Son to die for our sins, God "rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13). Until Christ returns, the forces of darkness are still active. What is our most effective weapon in spiritual warfare? Why is this spiritual weapon necessary to defeat the forces of evil?

A: Prayer is our most effective spiritual weapon. "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16). Through prayer, we link our spirits with the Spirit of God, who has the power to answer our prayer and defeat the "mighty powers in this dark world" (Ephesians 6:12).

"I" CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. A line in the Lord's Prayer is "rescue us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:13). Jesus wants us to pray for spiritual protection. Take a moment to pray that the Lord will protect you and those you love from evil's influence.
2. Would you like to become a "Warrior" like the ladies in Mrs. Collins' prayer group? Join a group of praying believers, if you're not a member of a group already.
3. Ask the Lord to make you more sensitive to the forces of darkness in our world. Commit to pray when you sense evil's influence. Pray for those at work who are struggling with sin. Pray for family members who are slipping into false teaching. Pray for the leaders of your community and church, that the Lord will guard them spiritually. Whom can you pray for right now?

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In the physical world, things work according to the laws of physics. There is also a spiritual world, and there are certain ways that things work there too. I would like to coin a phrase, “spiritual physics,” to describe how things operate in the spiritual world.

According to the Scriptures, we have spiritual enemies, Satan and his demons. They are bent on our destruction, and yet, it is not a fair fight because Jesus has already defeated the powers of hell. Jesus came to free the prisoners, give sight to the blind, give hope to the oppressed (Luke 4:18)—that’s us. He offers us His authority to join in that battle and to free people who are addicted and hopeless and who believe terrible lies about themselves and God (John 14:12). We get to be co-laborers in the work God “planned for us long ago” (Ephesians 2:10). I know, pretty crazy stuff.

We cannot kick in doors of the spiritual realm, beat up the bad guys (demons), and physically free prisoners. Things work differently in the spiritual realm. The good news is we have access to spiritual power that will overpower “the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world” (6:12). We can pray. We can pray for people to be protected, lies to be revealed, and deceptions to be exposed.

Deception is a weapon that is more powerful than bullets or bombs, and we suffer from deception too. We have been told by our culture—even, perhaps, by people in our churches—that we live only in a physical world. That there is no spiritual anything. As a result, we do not notice the very real spiritual battle raging around us with very real consequences. Another part of the deception is that we have been told we cannot participate in this war. It’s a dark deception. It’s just not true.

God is looking for apprentices—disciples who want to become more like Jesus (aka Christians)—to go out and do the things Jesus did, think the things Jesus thought, and believe the things Jesus believed. It is an amazing offer. There are things God wants done but He wants us to participate and pray for those things to happen. Then His power and resources will be brought to bear. Our part is to pray, and God will do what He wills. God set it up this way. We get to participate in God’s kingdom being formed down here on earth when we pray to our Father as Jesus taught us,

*May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)*

Jesus prayed for this to happen. He participated in that very work, and we get to do that too. A spiritual war is going on, and a harvest is ready to reap. God is looking for apprentices who want to become abiders and harvest-reapers. Ready to begin? Let’s pray to become spiritual warriors.

David B. Carl
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Paws & Tales