

Tools for Parents

Tiffany Cometh

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

Rebellion

Key Verse

"For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry." (1 Sam. 15:23 NIV)

Ear Check (*Story Comprehension*)

Q: What did Tiffany say the new library would be called?

A: *The Wildwood Public Library*

Q: How did Miss Harbor know there was something wrong with Tiffany's and Ned's book reports?

A: *They were identical except for a few words*

Q: Where were the hair ribbons that Tiffany gave to Staci and Marsha really from?

A: *The girls thought they were from France, but they had been used to tie Tiffany's shoe boxes*

Q: What was the outcome of the meeting between Miss Harbor, Mr. Rockler, and the Mayor?

A: *Miss Harbor was fired for failing to "earn the respect of an 11-year-old girl"*

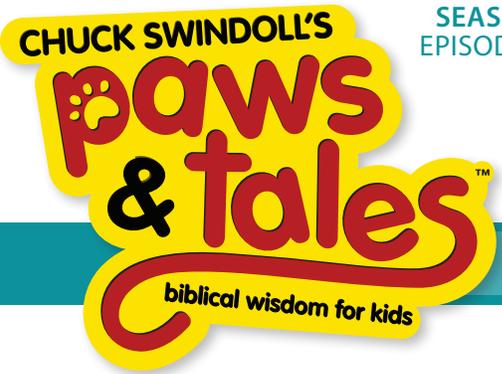
Q: What does Mr. Rockler hear that makes him think Miss Harbor was right?

A: *He overhears Tiffany bragging about being disrespectful to Miss Harbor*

Heart Check (*Spiritual Application*)

Q: Of course it would be better for an adult if a child is respectful, but why would a child choose to be respectful if the child is not forced to?

A: Because it is so much better in the long run for a child to learn to submit. A child who is not respectful to adults is like a train without a track. He or she will crash into many things throughout his or her life. We are commanded in Scripture to live in harmony with others as much as it is within our power (Eph. 4:3), and there is nothing more devastating to harmony than a kid who thinks he or she is at the same level as a teacher, leader, or any adult for that matter. This kid will fight, challenge, and be frustrated all through his or her life by things that he or she should simply submit to and move past.



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Q: What if the authority figure is not worthy of respect? Are we still required to respect him or her?

A: Yes! God has allowed every authority figure to be in the position of authority that they are in, and He has placed them there for a purpose. Many people constantly evaluate the authority figures over them in order to decide whether they are worthy of respect, and then they respond accordingly. This may seem like a smart thing to do, but in reality, it is rebellious and causes fractured relationships, stress, and disharmony. As hard as it may be at times to give proper respect to the people God has put over you, when you choose to submit, you will learn patience, longsuffering, and peace. And some of these are perhaps even best learned through experiences with difficult teachers or bosses.

"I" Check (Personal Application)

1. In your home, what is the penalty or the consequence for being disrespectful?
2. Look up the definition of *rebellion* in the dictionary. How were Tiffany's attitudes and actions a form of rebellion?
3. How do you think Tiffany's wealth contributed to her rebellious attitude and behaviour? Is it bad to be wealthy? Could a person who did not have many material possessions still be a rebellious person?
4. Put yourself in the place of Staci, Gooz, and Marsha. What would you have done if Tiffany began making nasty jokes about your friends? What if she were disrespectful to her teacher or another authority? How would you handle the situation?

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Director's Notes

In the Bible, rebellion is to be shunned and feared because God hates it. In our culture, however, rebellion has become a badge of honour. We do not understand the true nature and, therefore, the true consequences of rebellion. I don't believe it would be an overstatement to say that the results of rebellion are mathematical. Personal rebellion equals pain and disaster for you and for those around you. It was my intention with this episode to illustrate just how ugly, hurtful, and disastrous rebellion can be. Author Eugene Peterson has said, "Our primary task isn't to avoid sin, which is impossible anyway, but to *recognize* sin." Rebellion is the very foundation of sin, and we need our children to see it as such. Rebellion against God is the sin that ended the reign of King Saul. It is the sin that caused Israel to be overthrown and captured by Babylon. It was also the sin that got Lucifer thrown out of heaven and Adam and Eve forced out of the garden. Rebellion is not just misbehaving; it is the outright rejection of the authority and protection God has given to us. It is telling God that we will not trust Him. It is making our desires the gods of our lives. The life of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32 is a vivid illustration of the nature and consequences of a child's rebellion.

Tiffany possesses everything the world has to offer. However, because of her rebellion, the fear, humiliation, and disaster that always accompany rebellion will be her constant companions. *Paws & Tales* will deal with rebellion many times in episodes to come, but with this one, I wanted to lay the groundwork that rebellion is not cute or funny. It is horrible and hurtful for everyone involved. With the encouragement of our culture, we are tempted to see rebellion as the path to pleasure and self-fulfilment. This is a lie from the pit of hell. Of all the types of sin, rebellion is perhaps the fastest and surest path to utter disaster.



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