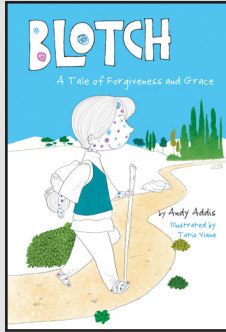


B&H KIDS PARENT Connection



Blotch

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DISCUSSION GUIDE 1 CHAPTER 1 – THE JOURNEY BEGINS

A LITTLE HELP

Sin is a word that means “to miss the mark.” A good way to illustrate it is to think of archery. If you shoot an arrow at a target and hit anything other than dead center, you missed the mark. When we sin, it’s simply missing the mark God has for us. That is why everyone has sinned.

Questions to discuss with your children:

1. How did Blotch and the other people get their stains?
2. You and I don’t have spots appearing on our bodies, but in what way do we have the same problems that Blotch does?
3. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” How does this verse show that everybody has sinned?
4. What is sin? (Affirm your children and explain sin using the illustration above in A Little Help.)
5. Why do you think Blotch wanted to get rid of his stains so badly?
6. Do you think we should try to get rid of our sins? How should we do it?
7. Blotch is looking for the king to get rid of his stains. Who should we go to if we want our sins forgiven?

DISCUSSION GUIDE 2 CHAPTER 2 – THE HIDERS

A LITTLE HELP

Find an envelope, and seal a love note, piece of candy, or gift card inside for each child. Then ask the children to guess what is inside the envelope. After several guesses, let them open the envelope and receive their gift (one per child). Be prepared to share later that some things can only be made good when they are no longer hidden.

Questions to discuss with your children:

1. How did you feel when you opened your envelope?
2. The Hiders of Hiderville only covered up their stains. Why does covering up stains really not do any good?
3. How do we try to cover up our stains and mistakes?
4. Even if we hide our mistakes from others, who will always know? Why does that matter?
5. Why 28:13 says, “The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.” What does the word prosper mean? How is this scripture’s message reinforced by the envelope activity you completed earlier?
6. How can hiding mistakes keep us from getting rid of our stains?



DISCUSSION GUIDE 3 CHAPTER 3 – THE PRETENDERS

A LITTLE HELP

We can learn about confession by practicing it. Model confession to your children by sharing something you regret or did wrong. Then ask them to share something they have done wrong and regret. Be prepared to compare this experience to confessing and being honest with yourself and God.

Questions to discuss with your children:

1. Why do you think some people try to ignore their mistakes and pretend they haven't messed up?
2. Why does ignoring a mistake, like the Pretenders did, never make it go away?
3. First John 1:8-9 says, "If we say, 'We have no sin,' we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." According to this verse, is there anything you could confess that God would not forgive?
4. Blotch wasn't satisfied to pretend his stains were gone – he wanted to be clean. What does 1 John 1:8-9 tell us to do if we want to be clean too?
5. Why is it important to confess (tell God about our mistakes)?

DISCUSSION GUIDE 4 CHAPTER 4 – THE POINTERS

A LITTLE HELP

Gather the family, and explain that you have candy for everyone to enjoy. But when you get out the candy, make sure you are one piece short. Begin to blame different family members for taking the lost piece of candy. Finally, reveal that you had the lost piece all along. Talk about how it feels to be blamed and to blame others.

Questions to discuss with your children:

1. When has someone blamed you for something that wasn't your fault?
2. Have you ever wanted to blame someone to get out of trouble? Why?
3. Why will the Pointers never lose their stains if they keep acting like they do?
4. Matthew 7:2-5 says, "For with the judgment you use, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but don't notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and look, there's a log in your eye? Hypocrite! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." Why do you think it's easier to point at someone else's mistakes than point at your own?

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5. God's Word says that we can't measure our lives by anyone else's life. Why does He want us to focus on our own lives?
6. God doesn't want you to be a Pointer. Is there anything in your life that you want to be honest with God about?

DISCUSSION GUIDE 5 CHAPTER 5 – THE KING

A LITTLE HELP

Ask your children what their favorite toy or possession is, and if possible let them bring it to show you. Discuss why that toy is so valuable to them, and then share an object or keepsake that is very valuable to them, and then share an object or keepsake that is very valuable to you. Finally, ask the kids what it would take for them to give their treasure away to anyone who wanted it. Use this discussion later when discussing what God gave us in Jesus.

Questions to discuss with your children:

1. How did you feel when Blotch met the king?
2. Were you sad when Blotch's stains appeared on the king? Why?
3. John 3:16 tells us, "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." According to this verse, how much God love us?
4. Blotch went on a long journey to get his stains removed. What does John 3:16 tell us that we need to do?
5. The king in this story is like Jesus from the Bible. Would you be willing to let Jesus take away your sins?

A PARENT'S GUIDE FOR LEARNING A CHILD TO CHRIST

1. Pray for the child. Let the child hear you pray.
2. Talk about Blotch, and see if the child can identify with him in the story.
3. Share the story of Jesus:
We were lost and hopeless.
God loved us and sent His Son.
Jesus took the punishment that our sins deserved.
We can be forgiven if we let Jesus take our place.
We need to live our lives for Him.
4. If the child understands and desires to ask Christ into his life, lead him in this simple prayer. Pause after reading each phrase to allow your child to pray it aloud:

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Dear God,
Please forgive me for my sins.
Thank You for loving me.
Thank You for sending Jesus for me.
Thank You, Jesus, for rising from the grave for me.
I will live my life for You.
I ask You to be my Lord and Savior.
In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

IMPORTANT FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- Ask your child to share her decision with a friend or family member immediately.
- Celebrate this time! One option is to purchase a new Bible and write the date in it so your child always remembers this day.
- Together with your child, talk to your church about baptism.
- Help your child's faith grow by reading the Bible together, praying together, and talking about God on a daily basis.

Thank you for caring about children and serving the Lord!