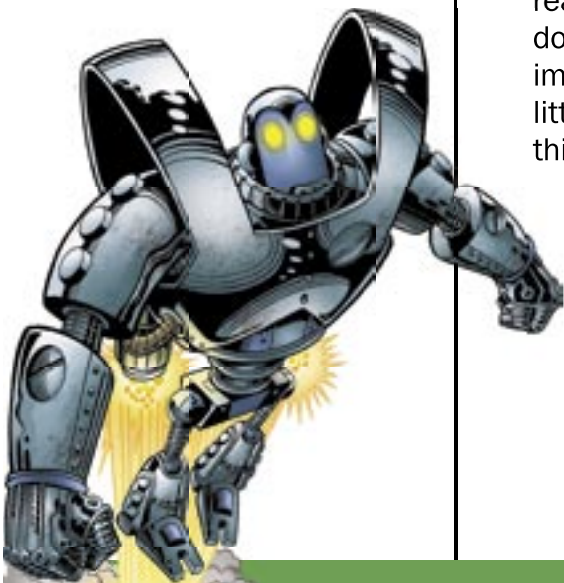


*Priorities aren't
just the things
we enjoy doing.*



What Comes First?

Priorities can be hard to establish, even for adults! Help preteens learn how to identify what's important.

A priority can be defined as something important that requires attention. But how can preteens figure out what's most important when so many things compete for their attention? They probably need a little help identifying their own priorities, and that's where you can help.

Priorities can be broken down into a few different categories.

- For Christian kids, reading the Bible, praying, and going to church need to be a priority to keep them close to God. They also need to prioritize the things they feel God has led them to do—being involved in a church activity, helping someone in need, inviting a friend to church, etc.
- Practicing or spending time doing things they want to get better at—a sport, musical instrument, reading, writing, drawing, etc.
- A task someone in authority has asked them to do. This is a hard category not only for preteens, but also for many adults! Help preteens realize when a parent, teacher, coach, or adult leader asks them to do something, it needs to become a priority—even if it doesn't seem important to the preteen. Homework, washing dishes, cleaning the litter box, and practicing a sports drill are some simple examples of this category.
- Other people need to be a priority in their lives. Some people—like friends—are easy to make a priority, and others—like brothers/sisters or people who aren't friends—can be a little harder. Listening to a friend, being kind to a schoolmate who needs a friend, playing a game or spending time with a sibling, and giving a simple hug to a parent are all ways preteens can show people they are important to them.



Holsom Comics Discussion Questions

Helping kids learn to establish their priorities now will help them as they get older to keep the truly important things a priority.

1. What was important to Mrs. Johnson? (*Her cancer research*) Did this change when she found out Mouse was missing? How? (*Yes; the importance of the research was less important*)
2. What was important to Reuben and Ralph? (*Catching the robot*) What was important to Jorge, Mouse, and Wendy? (*Getting away from Reuben and Ralph*)
3. Although not stated in this issue, what is important to JD? (*Getting the robots!*)
4. What was important to Lucy? (*Forgiving Jake*) How do you think Lucy's forgiveness affected Jake and those around them? (*It shocked them. Lucy showed God's love to Jake, and even to Tabby*)
5. What are some things that compete for your attention, but aren't necessarily important? (*Answers will vary.*)
6. What can you do to help keep the things that should be a priority from slipping down the list?



Activity

You will need:

Paper
Colored construction paper
Markers, crayons

Help kids identify a few things that are (and should be) important to them. (Remember, some things that are important can also be fun!) Ask them to write down their list on a plain piece of paper. Discuss the lists together. After you discuss their lists, give each kid a piece of construction paper. Instruct the kids to make priority lists they can hang in their rooms to help remind them of those things in their lives that are important.

Note: Although there are no right or wrong answers, some answers may be better than others. Just remember to encourage kids—they are still learning! Also, try to help the kids stick to their priorities. This is just a beginner's list!

