



Assuming that the skunk was just taking a rest, we stayed under the table to catch our breath. “What do you think happened to him?” Alex whispered. We did not want to agitate him and provoke him to raise his tail and use his powerful weapon. “I can’t see him very well,” said Alex. “I think we need more light.”

We quickly backtracked down the hill to our house to get a flashlight and then hurried back to the tree where we had first been hiding. Alex pointed the flashlight toward the side of the shed. We were disappointed to discover a lifeless little black and white body. The skunk was lying there with his body wedged up under the shed. He looked as still as a log. Looking closer with curiosity and fascination, we could clearly see that he was stuck.

“Alex, how could he have gotten caught under the shed like that?” I asked.

“I’m not exactly sure, Mother, but it looks like he was snooping. He was probably searching for food. He was digging in the wrong place at the wrong time and got caught.”

Suddenly, his tail moved. He was alive! We kept our distance, watching him furiously work his way out of his dilemma. Wiggle and dig, wiggle and dig, at last he dug himself out of his mess. We held our noses and our breaths as “Digger the Skunk” hobbled off over the hill, his white stripe shining like a victory banner in the moonlight.

“Skunks may leave, Mom, but they’re not easily forgotten,” Alex noted, as he grabbed a shovel from the shed and filled in the hole that Digger had made, not wanting another skunk to follow his example.

Because of our skunk hunt, we finished our chores much later than usual. Our curiosity had gotten the best of us. We walked back home and hung our smelly clothes out on the clothes line.

“Whew! Curiosity costs,” Alex confessed, “and that little skunk paid a price, too, almost the ultimate price—his life!”

“Alex, let’s remember to consider the cost before we follow our noses. I’m glad we took the time to learn this lesson from a skunk.”

*Skunks are good diggers and forage from early evening until morning. Skunks have partially webbed toes and long, dull claws. They help them tear apart foliage and trees for food and dig dens for shelter. Skunks do not store food but will raid food from other animals. Skunks are the primary predator of the honey bee; skunks’ thick fur protects them from stings.*



## Discussion

What does the phrase “curiosity costs” mean? Was it wise to fill in the hole at the shed? Explain why. Is there something that you are curious to learn about? Which Bible characters would you like to interview? What would you ask them? Discuss when it is, or is not, appropriate to be inquisitive.



## Scripture

“The days of the blameless are known to the LORD, and their inheritance will endure forever.” Psalm 37:18

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.”  
Proverbs 8:17

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise.”  
Ephesians 5:15

## Song

“Be Careful Little Eyes” and “Love Lifted Me”

## Activity

Play Hide and Seek in the dark with flashlights. First, decide what unsafe places will be off-limits. Send little ones out in pairs.

## Application

Make a list of at least three varied subjects that you are curious to study more (e.g., bird-watching, a new language, research family tree). Dig up weeds in the yard and garden and plant new shrubs. Re-pot small plants or flowers for your porch or window sills. Dig into the Proverbs and find out what God tells us about curiosity and prudence.

## Idiom

*Take the words right out of my mouth* means to say what another person is thinking.

*Cat nap* means a short, rejuvenating rest.

## Prayer

Ask the Lord to help you be curious about His Word and His ways.