

## The Big Story Lesson #5 Intended for Good

### Activity: Sticky Situations Part 1

1. Make a peanut butter and honey sandwich in which the ingredients are actually oozing out the sides!  
😊 Make peanut butter and jam if your family likes those better!
2. Cut into quarters and give each person a quarter sandwich that looks really yummy but also looks like they are going to get sticky and messy when they try to eat it
3. Tell them the goal is to NOT get sticky and messy. In fact, for the purposes of this activity, getting sticky and messy is WRONG
4. Hand them the plate and let them decide how or if they should eat the snack.
  - a. What will they do? What they should do?
  - b. If it is WRONG to get any part of their body get sticky and mess, what is the right thing to do?

### **INTEGRITY means that we do the right thing at the right time –even if no one is looking!**

We have problems in life because there are many **sticky situations**. Oftentimes we can think of really good reasons to do and think certain things but when we examine them closely, we come to know that they are wrong and we shouldn't do them or think them. Remember that deciding "right and wrong" comes from God and His Word. He sets the standards for life and godliness.

### Activity: Sticky Situations Part 2

Talk through the following situations:

**Story #1.** You're playing kickball in PE and your teacher told your class that each student only gets one pitch—just one try to kick the ball. One of the popular kids in the class kicks and misses, so he throws the ball back to the pitcher who gives him another chance. Just then, your teacher walks up and asks you if this was his first pitch. You answer "no," that it was his second.

**Question:** Did you act with integrity? In other words, did you do the right thing? What do you think might happen because you told the truth?

**Story #2** You're spending the night at your friend's house and his parents put on a scary movie that you know your parents would not want you to watch. You decide to not say anything. After all, it's not like you asked them to put it on, and they did not ask your opinion before doing so. But since you know your parents wouldn't want you to see the scary parts, you decide to look away during these parts. This way you're still not "watching" the parts that your parents wouldn't want you to see.

**Question:** Did you act with integrity? In other words, did you do the right thing? What might happen because you made this choice? (Your parents will lose trust in you; you will see things your parents didn't want you to see which might give you scary thoughts or nightmares; you will now have something in your life that you will want to hide from your parents, etc)

**PARENTS: please share a situation with your child where you acted with integrity when it would have been more convenient to do otherwise. This is the most important part of this activity, so I hope you will not only do it now, but keep sharing real-life situations with your kids throughout their growing up years .... Situation when you obeyed the dictates of God because it was not only the right thing to do but because you love God and want to honor Him and SHOW with your life that you believe the Bible.**

MORE HELPS.... Here are some questions to ask yourself in a “sticky situation.”

- What does my conscience—that “little voice” inside my head, say about it?
- Could it hurt anyone—including me?
- Is it fair?
- Would it violate the Golden Rule? (How would I feel if somebody did it to me?)
- Have I ever been told that it’s wrong?
- Deep down how do I feel about it?
- How will I feel about myself later if I do it?
- What would adults I respect say about it?

*If you still can’t decide, talk it over with someone you trust and respect.*

## Grab your Bibles

Genesis 39-45 (Don’t worry...we will be skimming)

*Joseph found himself in Egypt after being brutally betrayed and sold by his brothers. While there are differences to the stories, we see a lot of similarities between how Joseph did the right thing in situation after situation. We can learn from his story how to do the right thing even when it is difficult or backfires on us, but ultimately this story points to how Jesus did the same for us.*

### Read Genesis 39:1-4, 6-13

What was the temptation that Joseph faced?

What was Joseph’s reaction to the temptation?

“Ran” (out of the house) - Nus- (noose)- to flee, to escape

How did Jesus respond when he was tempted? (Skim Matthew 4:1-11)

What else do we learn about when we are tempted from 1 Corinthians 10:13?

### Read Genesis 39:19-23, 30:23

*Joseph did the right thing by running away from Potiphar’s wife. However, even though he was innocent he was still falsely accused and thrown in jail. He stayed there for over 2 years.*

Who else can you think of in the Bible who was wrongly accused, yet still was punished for something they didn’t do? (Check out John 18:38-19:6)

## Read Genesis 42:1-8

*Joseph talked with the brothers who had sold him into slavery, and even though they didn't recognize him, he made sure they went home with food. The famine got worse and worse and the brothers had to come back for more food...finally we see his real feelings come out*

## Read Genesis 45:1-8

How did Joseph's brothers feel when they found out it was him?

From the brother's perspective, why was Joseph in Egypt?

What was Joseph's explanation for why he was in Egypt?

*This story is a picture of God and humans working at the same time through the same events, but what humans intended for evil, in the end God works out to be the best good. He keeps Joseph's family alive, and in turn preserves the line of the future Messiah, Jesus. Joseph goes through temptation and overcomes just as Jesus ultimately defeats evil. Joseph chooses to forgive his brothers, even when they didn't deserve it, because he understood God's perspective. Jesus also knew the bigger picture and he chose to sacrifice himself and rise again so that he could offer forgiveness to every undeserving person on earth. Praise God!*

## God's Promise

### Genesis 50:20

"But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to \_\_\_\_\_ me, but God intended it for \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish what is now being done, the \_\_\_\_\_ of many \_\_\_\_\_"

## Big Questions

When was a time in your life that was difficult, or hard to understand, yet when you look back now, you can see how God was working in that situation?

Why is it so hard to do the right thing when no one is looking? Why do you think God still asks us to honor what is right?

God honored that Joseph chose what was right, even when no one was looking, or it didn't matter if he did the right thing. He worked through the right choices Joseph made, as well as the wrong choices his brothers made. If we know that God works even what is intended for evil for ultimate good (in his timing) what are the extra benefits or blessings of choosing to do what is right?