

Tomato Sawyer & Huckleberry Larry's Big River Rescue



What is the STORY about?

Huckleberry Larry and Tomato Sawyer are two friends homesteading on the banks of the Mississippi River. Only three days shy of permanently owning their land, they are soon brought into an unexpected adventure. Little Jimmy, once a famous singer with his Mama Belle, has been falsely convicted of a major turkey-jerky heist and has set off to find freedom and his Mama at the fair in St. Louie. In desperate need of help, Jim happens along the homesteading site of Huck and Tom. While Huck wants to help Jim find his Mama in St. Louie, Tom reminds him that they will lose their hard-earned land if they leave their site to head south. Join Tom and Huck as they discover that helping others may not be easy—but it's always the right thing to do!

- *A Lesson in Helping Others*
- *Key Passage: Joshua 2 and 6 (Lesson-related Bible story)*
- *Running time: 50 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Why did Huckleberry Larry think he should help Little Jimmy—even though it meant he would lose the rights to his homestead property? (Helping someone is always the right thing to do. Not helping someone is the same as hurting someone.)*
- *Tom said that since he didn't hurt Jimmy, he shouldn't have to help him. What made Tom change his mind? (Tom's fishing pole was broken when someone wouldn't help him.)*
- *Mr. Dooley blamed Little Jimmy for stealing turkey jerky and tearing up the factory with his bare hands. Who was really guilty of stealing the turkey jerky? (Mr. Dooley himself.)*
- *Little Jimmy knew that he was not guilty of stealing the turkey jerky, but what did he do instead of trying to "get even" with his accuser, Mr. Dooley? (He patiently worked in the lumber yard.)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The story of Rahab HELPING two spies is found in Joshua 2 and 6. Read appropriate portions of the story to your group OR tell in this condensed version.

Joshua became the leader of the Israelites after Moses died. He secretly sent two spies into Jericho to look around and figure out how they could defeat the enemy. The spies went to Rahab's house, which was built on the wall of the city, and asked if they might stay there. Although Rahab was not a follower of God, she wanted to protect these men because she knew that God was on their side. She hid them under some stalks that were drying on her roof. When the king's soldiers came for the men, Rahab told them they were gone. The soldiers quickly ran after the spies, but, of course, they could not find them. Rahab went to the roof and begged the spies to be kind to her since she had helped them. They promised to save Rahab and her family when they destroyed the city of Jericho if she promised not to tell anyone why they were there. Then Rahab let the men down by a scarlet rope from her window and told them to hide in the hills for three days and then go on their way. When Joshua and the Israelites finally marched around the city and the walls of Jericho fell, all of the people were killed EXCEPT Rahab and her family. The men found her house with the scarlet cord in the window and brought Rahab and all of her relatives with them to the camp of Israel because she had kept her word and helped the two spies.

The Story of Rahab



ACTIVITY

Print these theme lines (bolded) on large strips of paper so that the entire group can read them. (Do not add the names of characters in parentheses or the questions that follow.)

- **Doing the Right Thing** (*Huckleberry Larry*) Can you think of a time when someone made fun of you for doing what was right?
- **Making a Hard Decision** (*Tomato Sawyer*) Have you ever felt that you “let someone down” by not sticking up for them or not helping them?
- **Blaming Others** (*Mr. Dooley*) Can you remember a situation when you told a lie so that you wouldn’t get in trouble?
- **Patiently Waiting for the Truth** (*Little Jimmy*) Have you ever been blamed for something you didn’t do? How did you react?

Ask the children to match a character from the story with each of the theme lines and encourage discussion with the questions that are included.



What can we DO?

Gather your group together around a large dry erase board or a very large piece of paper and tell them that you are going to “brainstorm” about ways to help others. Divide the helping list into categories such as: Helping at Home, Helping at School, Helping in the Community, Helping at Church. Encourage each child to commit to helping in one of the ways listed during the next week. To remind them of their helping commitment, tie a piece of yarn (from Bob’s fishing pole) around one finger of each child. If time allows, encourage role playing to emphasize the real-life situations mentioned.

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **1 Peter 3:13** “Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?”
- **Deut 31:6** “Be strong and very courageous...”
- **1 Peter 3:9a** “Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult...”

3 Things to remember about Rahab

1. When two spies came to her house, she **HELPED** them
2. She **DID THE RIGHT THING** by hiding the men on her roof
3. God **PROTECTED** Rahab and her family

KEY VERSE

(James 4:17) “If you know what is right to do, but you do not do it, you sin.”

KEY NUGGET

Helping others may not be the easiest thing to do, but it’s always the right thing to do!

