

Perspective



Once upon a time Jonah and his sister Lydia visited their grandparents at their farm. Jonah picked up a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods but he could never hit what he aimed at. Getting a little discouraged, he headed back to the farmhouse for lunch. As he was walking back he saw Grandmother's pet duck Jasper waddling across the farmyard.

Out of a frustrated and bad impulse, he let the slingshot fly, and watched horrified as the stone hit Jasper square in the head and killed him instantly. He was shocked and grieved, and in a panic, he picked up and hid the dead duck in the pile of leaves in the woods.

What he did not know is his sister Lydia had seen it all from the woods but she said nothing. After the lunch, the next day their Grandmother said, "Lydia, let's wash the dishes." Lydia said, "But Grandmother, Jonah told me he wanted to help in the kitchen."

Then she she went and whispered to Jonah, "Remember the duck? I saw everything." Jonah got nervous knowing his sister knew about the duck and if he didn't obey her, she would tell his grandparents about it. So without saying anything, he did the dishes.

Later that day, Grandfather asked them if they wanted to go fishing but Grandmother said, "I'm sorry but they both made a mess in the den and need to clean it up." Lydia just smiled and said, "It is all Jonah's mess, I didn't even play in there." To Jonah she secretly made a motion like she was aiming a slingshot at him, as she mothed "Remember the duck."

So Lydia went fishing and Jonah stayed to clean up their mess. After several days of Lydia taking advantage of Jonah, always hinting that she would expose his crime if he did not do exactly as she wanted, he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He went to his Grandmother and tearfully confessed what had happened, that he had killed the duck, and then covered up his crime in the woods.

Jonah's Grandmother knelt down, and with tears in her eyes gave him a hug and said, "Sweetheart, I know. I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing as it happened. I cried for Jasper but because I love you, I forgave you. To be honest though, I was truly beginning to wonder how much longer you were going to let Lydia blackmail and take advantage of you. You have not had the fun visit I would have wanted for you."

Perspective

Who has ever done something really bad and then tried to hide it?

How does the last paragraph of the story change our perspective on Jonah's situation?

How does knowing that the universe has a creator change how we perceive our universe?

How does understanding that THE G-D who created the whole universe also loves us individually change our perspective?

How does understanding the sacrifice of Yeshua change our perspective on our situation?

How does this story help us understand repentance?



Do you think that Jonah's Grandmother should punish Lydia, knowing what she did to Jonah?

Do you think that Jonah deserved the punishment he received from his sister?

Do you believe Jonah's punishment was largely self-inflicted?

Do you think Lydia's behaviour is like hasatan's?

