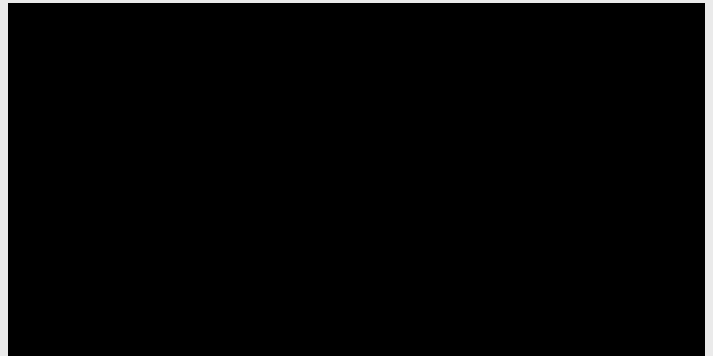


MVL 49  
Summer 2005

Artist:	Album Title & Record Company:	Song Title:	Study by:
JOHN REUBEN JOHNREUBEN.COM	THE BOY VS. THE CYNIC GOTEE RECORDS	NUISANCE	ERIC CHARNQUIST INTERLINC FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE ECHARNQUIST@INTERLINC-ONLINE.COM



## Theme

Life; Purpose/ Meaning

## Objective

To help students understand that God is working in their lives and they fit into His bigger picture.

## Warm Up

Give each student a piece to a jigsaw puzzle. The objective is to have the students find someone with a companion puzzle piece. Don't let them see the box cover or image of the finished puzzle. Put on some pumping tunes from your latest Youth Leaders Only box. Give the students five minutes to find their companion piece.

## The Video

Get the students together and play the Reuben video. Have the group talk about how putting the puzzles together went and the challenge of not knowing what the final picture should look like. Ask them if knowing what the picture looked like would have been helpful.

## Bible Study

Say, "Joseph had an image of what his puzzle was going to look like (read **Genesis 37: 6**). He dreamt about the future – a glimpse at a final picture. His brothers hated him before that dream and hated him even more afterward. Let's pick up his story after his brothers sold him into slavery. (Read **Genesis 39:1-6**.) Joseph was successful and found favor with his boss – so much so that Potiphar put him in charge of everything. With Joseph in charge, Potiphar didn't concern himself with anything but what he ate. That means Joseph took care of everything. I'm sure there were things that Joseph didn't enjoy doing (cleaning toilets, balancing the checkbook, etc.) but he did them and did them well. Do you think Joseph wanted to be in there? Do you think he ever questioned what was happening to him and why he was in there?"

"Then Potiphar's wife made a move on Joseph and he escaped – to prison. (Read **Genesis 39:21-23**.) Sound familiar? The Lord was with him and granted him favor – again. This time the warden of the prison who put Joseph in charge wasn't concerned with anything that Joseph (a prisoner) was in charge of. Joseph was in prison for at least two years (**Genesis 41:1**). TWO YEARS! That's a long time. Do you think Joseph wanted to be in prison? Do you think he ever questioned what was happening to him and why he was in there?"

"Because he was faithful to God and put Him first, (read **Genesis 41:41-43**) God put him in charge of EGYPT!"

"Joseph dealt with events that were out of his control by taking care of what was in his control. He went from favored son to slave, to prisoner, to being in charge of a whole country (and a big one at that), to being reunited and reconciled with his family. I can't help but wonder what went through Joseph's mind. If it were me I would be thinking, 'You've got to be kidding me?!' or, 'What now?' or even, 'WHY, God!?'"

The Bible gives us a glimpse of how Joseph put his puzzle together:

- Joseph obeyed his dad even though he knew his brothers hated him. (**Genesis 37:13-15**)

- Joseph obeyed God even though he could have gotten away with sinning. (**Genesis 39:9**)
- Joseph put God first and gave Him all the credit. (**Genesis 41:16**)

Say, "The key to this story is how Joseph reconciled with his brothers. After all he endured, he finally realized the big picture. In **Genesis 45:5-8**, Joseph acknowledged that it was God who wanted him to become a slave so that he could become king of Egypt and save his family and countless lives. He saw the big picture, and his place in it."

## So What

Hand out the Student Guides and have the students write down their answers to the questions.

## Wrap Up

Say, "We get so wrapped up in what we have going on that we lose sight of the bigger picture – and we lose sight of God. We get so focused on our one little piece of the puzzle, or get so frustrated by trying to make it fit somewhere, that we lose trust in God. And overlook the fact that He may want to use us to brighten up the world around us with the light of His love. Joseph got that. Do you?"

# JOHN REUBEN

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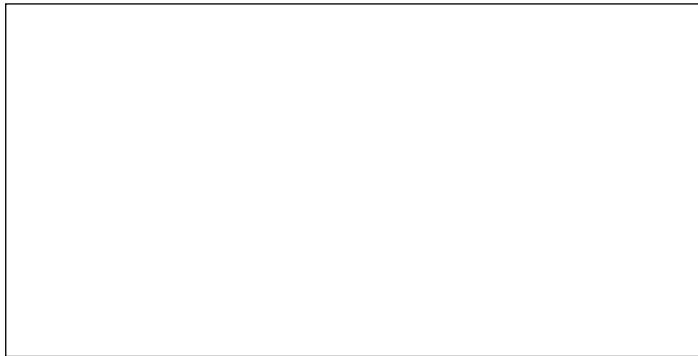
THE BOY VS. THE CYNIC  
GOTEE RECORDS

Song Title:

NUISANCE

Theme:

LIFE; PURPOSE/MEANING



Do you think God cares about what is happening in your life?

Do you find yourself focused intently, like our friends in the video, on things without a bigger picture in mind?

What are you so focused on in your daily tasks that distract you from the bigger picture?

Are you putting God first?

If so, what?

What are you going through now that doesn't seem to make sense as to why you have to go through it?

Do you believe that there's a bigger picture, a bigger scene that God wants to use your current experiences in? What might that be?