

SHILOH

Rated: PG • **Running Time:** 93 minutes

Themes: Kindness vs. cruelty, personal sacrifice, honesty, responsibility, perseverance, respect for parents, honoring agreements, friendship, loving something enough to pay a heavy price for its freedom

Story Summary

A dog may be man's best friend, but to the abusive Judd Travers, his hounds are only as valuable as their ability to hunt. Mere tools of the trade. Which is why he thinks nothing of striking his new beagle after an ill-timed bark nearly costs them a raccoon. The pup runs away and begins shadowing Marty, a tender-hearted boy who feels obligated to protect the animal he names Shiloh. When his father insists they return the dog to its rightful owner, Marty determines to earn enough money doing odd jobs around their rural town to purchase Shiloh from Judd. Dad isn't keen on the idea. But Marty is so committed to helping the dog that he even reallocates the cash he'd been saving to buy a bike.

Judd continues to mistreat Shiloh, who gets loose again and heads straight to Marty's house. This time the boy hides him in a rundown shed, slipping him table scraps with the help of his friend Samantha. It's their secret. And keeping it means sneaking around and telling half-truths ("I hate lying, but I promised Shiloh"). One night a vicious mongrel attacks Shiloh, wounding him badly enough to require an emergency visit to Doc Wallace. Thus the secret is out, and Marty learns a lesson about honesty, trust and personal responsibility.

Soon after, Marty catches Judd setting illegal traps and strikes a deal: In exchange for his silence and five days of slave labor, Marty will be allowed to keep Shiloh. Judd works him hard. Painting. Clearing ground. Chopping wood. Sweat and sacrifice prove the measure of Marty's love for his canine companion. However, once the work is done, the surly man announces that he has no intention of

Cautions: Judd drinks beer and chews tobacco. He also kicks Shiloh and hits him with the butt of a gun, then misapplies Genesis 1:28 to justify abuse. Shiloh is attacked by a bigger dog. The expressions "pee," "geez" and "h---uva" pop up. Characters describe a fatal car accident and the death of a cat. Judd shoots a raccoon (bloodied body shown).

honoring his end of the bargain. Refusing to hand Shiloh over, Marty expects Judd to try to take the dog by force, which he does. Yet before the pickup truck can drive out of sight, a sliver of conscience prods Judd to release the beagle, who races to his new master. As Doc had put it, "Sometimes the greatest test of love is how much you're willing to fight for it."

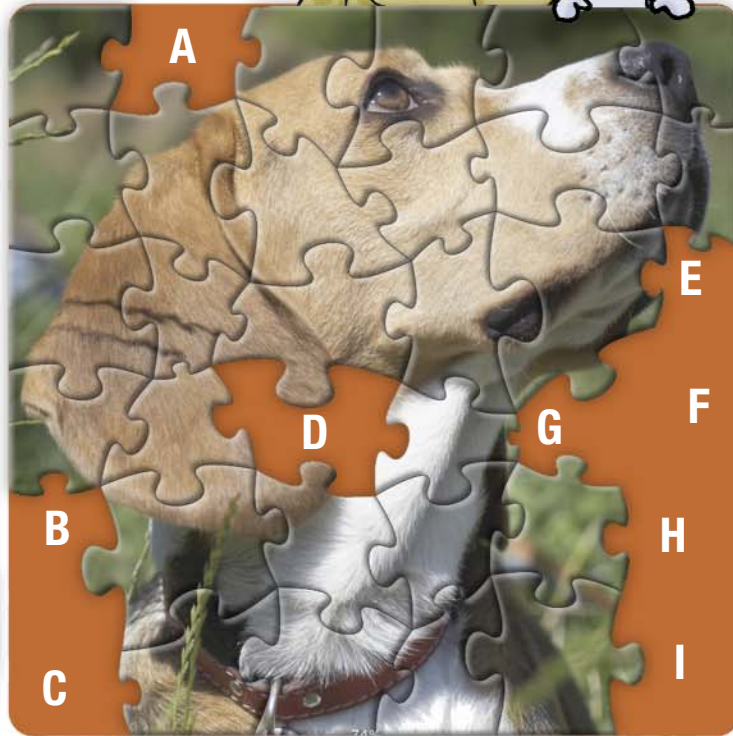
Family Activity

Marty does chores for Judd for a price. But you can bless your neighbors by raking leaves, shoveling snow or pet sitting—free. Look around. Who needs a hand? Together, find someone to serve in the spirit of Matthew 5:16.

Talking Points

1. Explain how Jesus paid a price for our freedom (John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and compare that to Marty's unselfish quest to rescue Shiloh.
2. Judd's behavior is an example of how alcohol can enslave us and impair judgment. Read Proverbs 23:29-35 and Ephesians 5:18 for a biblical view of drunkenness.
3. Marty isn't the first person to strike a deal and work hard, only to have the other party renege. Tell your child the story of Jacob and Laban by sharing an age-appropriate paraphrase of Genesis 29:13-30.
4. Ask, "Why is it so important to be trustworthy?" Discuss how Marty and Sam's lies may not have *felt* as harmful as Judd's due to Shiloh's plight and the children's noble intentions, but that all lying is wrong (Ephesians 4:25). —by Bob Smithouser

Complete the Puzzle



With your parents' permission, [click here](#) to work the *entire* puzzle online! Once you've started, be careful not to close your browser or you may have to start over.

Marty's Mystery Math Message

Marty sacrificed to buy Shiloh's freedom. Likewise, Jesus paid a heavy price to save us. Solve the math problems and use the key below to reveal the message of Mark 10:45.

- 1 - many 9 - not 17 - come
- 2 - give 10 - to 18 - For
- 3 - ransom 11 - did 19 - be
- 4 - of 12 - the 20 - even
- 5 - served 13 - but 21 - and
- 6 - a 14 - Son 22 - his
- 7 - Man 15 - serve 23 - as
- 8 - life 16 - for

“

3×6	$11 + 9$	$(6 + 8) - 2$	$37 - 23$	$(2 \times 3) - 2$
$21 \div 3$	$(8 \times 2) - 5$	$27 \div 3$	$(5 \times 3) + 2$	$7 + 9 - 6$
$38 \div 2$	$12 + 13 \div 5$	$9 + 4$	$100 \div 10$	$32 - 17$
7×3	$(30 \div 5) + 4$	$31 - 17 - 12$	$30 - 8$	$24 \div 3$
$(6 \times 5) - 7$	$48 \div 8$	$2 + 13 - 12$	$57 - 41$	$(9 \times 9) - 80$

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