

Bryan: Dad found a love letter from a guy in my box of things, and he read this letter and he lost it. He took for a ride and dropped me off in the middle of the night with a five dollar bill. That's sort of all I remember, sleeping outside in the country that night. And, I really missed my brothers and sisters when I left home. I remember hearing that if you guys talked to me if I called the house that you'd get a beating because dad didn't want you to catch gay. And you guys believed that.

Mike: Granted, it was a fear based belief.

Bryan: Of course, but you know, it was still something I had to try to fix. And so as each of you guys moved out or got kicked out of the house..

Mike: or ran away..

Bryan: Or ran away, in your case, I would make an effort to try to contact you guys and be a big brother again. At first you were really resistant. You didn't know anything about gay people and it took a long time for our relationship to build. But after you started to accept it, every time you met another gay person you'd say "Oh, you gotta meet my brother" and hook me up with every guy that you thought was gay, you know, I always thought that was really sweet. And that's when we started coming back together, you know, as brothers and sisters. Bryan, Pam, Chris, Mike, Jude, Amy, Josh and Luke-Henry. Now, Luke-Henry I didn't even know because he wasn't born until I was, like, nineteen or twenty. And I hadn't seen him in ... ever. And I got a call, and the voice on the other end said "Bryan, this is your little brother, Luke". By this time, you know, he was estranged from Mom and Dad and he wanted to go to University of Dallas. So I took my savings, and I bought one one-way ticket and one round trip ticket to Dallas. Now mind you, this is a catholic school and I'm the big gay brother. I'm running around getting him set up for his dorm room, and we go through this whole weekend and at the end I gave Luke a hug and a kiss and told him how much I loved him and he started walking away. I was just watching after him like "Wow, I really finally got to be a big brother" and at that moment he turned around and mouthed "I love you". It was the most beautiful moment I had ever experienced. And I called you from the hotel, sobbing, do you remember this?

Mike: Yeah. You brought eight siblings that were so far apart to be as close as we all became.

Bryan: I just want you to know how much it means to me that you've loved me like this, and for that I'll be forever grateful.

Mike: You're a good man.

Bryan: Well.... thank you Mike.

<https://storycorps.org/animation/a-good-man/>

Part One

In your own words, summarise the story for your partner. You can make notes here.

Part Two

Ask your partner the following questions.

Why was Patrick embarrassed about his dad coming to school?

Why was the McGloughlin girl 'making goo-goo eyes' at Patrick?

What did Patrick do after his conversation with his dad in the car? Why did he do that?

What does Patrick mean when he says his dad was 'The Patron Saint of Sissies'?