



SEPTEMBER THEME

HIGH WIRE

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 41

Joseph in Charge

(Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams)

BOTTOM LINE

When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding"

Proverbs 3:5, NIV

LIFE APP

Trust—putting your confidence in someone you can depend on

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between TRUST and God's character, as shown through God's big story

This WEEK: In **Genesis 41**, we look at the next chapter of Joseph's life. Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret. The cupbearer finally remembered how Joseph interpreted his dream while they were in prison and recommended they get him to help. With God's help, Joseph interpreted the dreams and formulates a plan to help Egypt survive through the seven years of famine that God said was coming. Pharaoh ended up putting Joseph in charge of the entire project. Joseph could have been worried and decided that the task was too difficult, but instead he trusted God and God was faithful.

Bottom Line: **When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.** Kids will face moments when they're called to do something that might seem crazy to us—maybe something as simple as getting up in front of the class and giving a speech—but we can trust God to give us the strength and courage to face whatever comes our way.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray for any kids you know of who are struggling to perform well at school or in sports, or struggling to succeed in general. Ask God to alleviate some of the pressure on these kids to help them see that God's got their backs.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

• Ask kids:

—What are some jobs that you are responsible for at home? Do you have some kind of chore chart at your house? If so, what things are written next to your name?

—What are you expected to just do without being asked?

—What about at school? Do you have some jobs at school that you're responsible for?

•• **DON'T LET IT FALL!**

What You Need: Plastic cups

What You Do:

• Challenge kids to balance the cups on various parts of their bodies: heads, noses,



fingertips, elbows, knees, feet, etc.

What You Say: “I think we’ll be able to form our own circus by the end of this month! Ha! Or maybe not. But you’re getting pretty good! [Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WoW, we’ll see/we saw what kind of pressure Joseph had to face in our Bible story today!”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● CUP DANCE *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: 9 Cups with “Memory Verse Phrases” stickers stuck inside

What You Do:

- Explain that you’ll be playing a game similar to the “Cap Dance” game they might have seen on the big screen at a baseball game.
- Tell kids that each cup has a phrase or word from the memory verse inside it.
- Put the cups with the first three phrases in them upside down in a row in front of you.
- Tell kids you’re going to mix them up, and then they’ll guess which one has the first phrase in it.
- Mix up the cups, and let kids guess.
- If they’re wrong, put the cup back, let kids know which one is the correct one, mix the cups up again, and then let the kids guess again.
- Once they get it right, they keep the cup, and you add the cup with the fourth phrase to the other two cups.
- Vary the complication and speed with which you mix up the cups according to the kids’ abilities. For a twist in the game, you could also stack them in varying order and unstack them again, so kids have to remember the order of the cups to figure out which one they’re looking for.
- Keep playing until kids have found all the cups.
- After a couple of rounds, feel free to let the kids take turns being the person mixing up the cups.

What You Say: “There was a little bit of pressure on you during this game, but it probably didn’t seem like as much pressure as when you’re watching it happen on a screen and the objects are moving really fast. But either way, pressure can sometimes stress us out. But you need to remember: **[Bottom Line] When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.** You can trust in God with ALL your heart and not lean on your own knowledge or understanding. God knows everything, and God is completely trustworthy!”

●● STORY CUPS *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: “Story Questions” activity page strips, 2 cups for each kiddo, permanent markers

What You Do:

- Set out the markers and give each kiddo two cups. *(You can reuse cups from previous activities.)*
- Tell kids to make one of their cups look like a cow and the other cup look like grain (or plants).
- Then tell kids to each place one of their cups upside down on the floor.
- They should stand up just behind the cup and hold the other cup at chin height. They then drop that cup, trying to get it to “swallow” the cup on the floor, just like the cows and grain in Pharaoh’s dream.
- The first kid who gets his cup to swallow the other cup seven times gets to ask the group one of the “Story Questions.” *(Hold the*



question cards as kids play the game, keeping them in order. As kids win each round and ask a question, hand out the cards in order.)

- Repeat until all questions have been asked and answered.
- NOTE: If it is taking a long time for kids to get the cups swallowed seven times, let kids get down on their knees and drop the cups from chin height. Or let them bend at the waist (*without squatting down*) so the starting height is lower.

What You Say: “This wasn’t an easy game, but you stuck with it. When the pressure is on in real life, we need to remember we can stick with God, and God will get us through. **[Make It Personal]** (*Tell kids an age-appropriate story about a time when you felt a lot of pressure, but you trusted God.*) **Can anyone else tell me a story about a time you trusted God when the pressure was on? (Allow several kids to share.)** **[Bottom Line]** **When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you!**”

•• **SCRIPTURE SEARCH** (*application activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, “Verse References” handout, pens or markers, 1 index card for each kiddo

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of a specific time when they feel pressure and need to trust God. Maybe it’s when it’s their turn to bat in softball, when they have to give a report in school or take a test, or when they’ve done something wrong and have to own up to it.
- Tell kids to look up a few of the verses and read them silently and then choose the verse they think will help them the most when they’re in the pressure situation they thought of.
- Kids can write that verse down on an index card and decorate it if they wish.

What You Say: “I want you to take these cards home and put them somewhere you’ll see them and can be reminded that **[Bottom Line] when the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.** Maybe you’ll put the card on your bathroom mirror so you’ll see it first thing in the morning and think about it throughout the day and then again before you go to bed. Maybe you’ll put it in your desk at school so you’ll see it when you need a reminder before a test or an oral report. Maybe you’ll put it in your gym bag so you’ll remember to trust God when the pressure is on you during a game. Wherever you put it, think about how much God loves you and how you can trust God with anything at any time!”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: Bibles or index cards from the “Scripture Search” activity

What You Do:

- Ask kids to look at their index cards. (*If you didn’t do the “Scripture Search” activity, tell kids to look up Proverbs 3:5 in their Bibles.*)
- Explain that kids will turn their Scripture into a prayer.
- For example, the memory verse could be prayed like this: “God, help me to trust you with all my heart. I don’t want to depend on my own understanding, but on yours. Amen.”
- Give kids time to take turns praying aloud if they wish. Then give them 20-30 seconds to pray silently.

What You Say: “Did you know that you could use Scripture to pray? Now you do! Lots of verses can be turned into prayers. Whenever you see your index card this week, I want you to not only remember that you can trust God is with you, but I also want you to pray about it! Thank God for God’s presence, and pray your Scriptures back to God.”

[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week. Tell parents that this month we are growing around the theme of trust and we’re exploring how we are never alone... that God is always with us...no matter what.