



SEPTEMBER THEME
HIGH WIRE

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 41 | Spark p. 54-59
Pharaoh's Dreams
Spark p. 60-65
Joseph Helps His Family

BOTTOM LINE

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

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
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.

●● JOSEPH’S LIFE: PART TWO *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: Spark Story Bible, “Joseph and Pharaoh’s Dreams” and “Joseph Helps His Family” color sheets, crayons

What You Say: “Last week we learned all about Joseph and the trouble he was facing. Remember? His brothers were very jealous of his beautiful coat and the dreams he was having, so they threw him into a well and then sold him to some traders. And then the traders took him all the way to Egypt! Today we’ll read more of his story...”

What You Do:

- Hand out “Joseph and Pharaoh’s Dreams” color sheet and crayons. While the kids color, read Pharaoh’s Dreams on pages 54-59 in the Spark Story Bible.
- Briefly review the story...while pointing to the three sections on the color sheet: say the following...

What You Say:

“Things are still looking pretty bad for Joseph. First, he was sent far, far away from his family to Egypt. And to make it worse, he was accused of something he didn’t do and thrown in jail! I’ll bet Joseph was so confused. But he wasn’t alone. God was with him. We know that [Bottom Line] when the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you. Joseph trusted God. When he was thrown in prison, he still trusted God and the jailer put him in charge of all the other prisoners. God helped him to help them understand their dreams and Pharaoh heard about it. So, eventually, he was able to help Pharaoh with his dreams, too! I bet he was really nervous when Pharaoh summoned him and asked him for help! But he trusted God would help him. And when he did that, Pharaoh put him in charge of Egypt! Whoa! Amazing! But this isn’t the end of Joseph’s story. In fact, let’s keep reading!”

What You Do:

- Hand out “Joseph Helps His Family” color sheet and crayons. While the kids color, read Joseph Helps His Family on pages 60-65 in the Spark Story Bible.
- Briefly review the story...while pointing to the three sections on the color sheet: say the following...

What You Say: “God was with Joseph every step of the way and Joseph followed God’s leading to save food so that, when the famine came and the food crops dried up, there was plenty of food in Egypt. People traveled from far away places and Joseph was able to help them! Even Joseph’s family came for his help! And he was so happy to see them. He not only gave them food and a place to bring their families...but he forgave them for all that they had done. He saw that God had turned a bad situation into something good. I’m so glad that Joseph trusted God, even when things didn’t make any sense. Remember [Bottom Line] when the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.”



[Make It Personal] *(Tell the kids about a time when you were under pressure but you knew that God was with you. What happened? How did trusting God help you face a scary situation? Make sure your example is age-appropriate.)*

●● **“THE PRESSURE’S ON!” POSES** *(application activity)*

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Divide kids into pairs and then gather the kids to sit down in your Small Group area.
- Take a moment to explain what “the pressure is on” means, in terms that kids this age can understand. Tell kids they might feel “pressure” whenever they have to do something hard or learn something new. That feeling they get when learning to tie their shoes or reading a new word is like feeling the “pressure” of wanting to get that thing right.
- Explain that you’ll read a “pressure” scenario and kids will “pose” their partner like he/she is actually doing the thing in the scenario. *(For example, for #3, a kid could put his partner in a seated position and turn her head upward, as if looking at a server at a restaurant. Then he could move his partner’s jaw up and down, as if she’s talking.)*
- Instruct kids to switch roles each time.
- Give kids ideas about how to pose their partner if they seem to have trouble coming up with ideas. And remind the kids being posed to let their partner move them; don’t stiffen up.

Scenarios

1. You are called on to read something on the board in front of the whole class.
2. You’re up to bat in tee ball or baseball.
3. Your mom encourages you to order your own food at a restaurant.
4. You have to take a skills test for your yellow belt.
5. You have to spell a word in front of everyone in the spelling bee.
6. You need to apologize to a friend that you hurt.
7. You lied about something and you need to confess it to your mom or dad.
8. Everyone on your team has run the obstacle course; you’re the LAST one to run and you want to win for your team.
9. You are playing in your first piano recital.
10. Your teammate kicks you the ball because you’re right in front of the goal.

What You Say: “Great job, everybody! Today we’re learning that **[Bottom Line] when the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.** You probably won’t have to face a man as powerful as Pharaoh and interpret his dreams, but you will face situations like these where you might feel like you’re under pressure. It’s important to trust God in these situations and believe that you aren’t alone. God is right there with you when you swing that bat or apologize or tell the truth or run that obstacle course. God is with you and God loves you whether you win that yellow belt, read every word perfectly, or completely forget the poem you memorized. No matter what pressure you face, God is on your side. God is your biggest cheerleader. **[Bottom Line] When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.** And when you remember that, it makes it easier to do the hard things!”

●● **TARGET PRACTICE** *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: Bible, ball-pit ball, leader bin, masking tape

What You Do:

- Using the tips below, help the kids look up Proverbs 3:5 and read it together.

Finding verses with kindergarteners and 1st graders: Open a Bible to the front and find the table of contents. When you find it, hold up the Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. Lead kids to find Proverbs in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Proverbs starts with the letters P-R. When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can

