



SEPTEMBER THEME

HIGH WIRE

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 37, 39:1-2, 40 | Spark p. 48-53
Joseph and His Brothers

BOTTOM LINE

When life doesn't make sense, 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: After last week's intro, we explore more of Joseph's story in **Genesis 37, 39:1-2 and 40**. Joseph gets a beautiful coat from his dad, frustrates his brothers, is thrown into a well, sold to some traders, ends up in Egypt far, far away from his family, and then ends up in prison. Joseph still trusted God, and God was with him. While he's in prison, Joseph meets pharaoh's cupbearer and baker, who both end up having dreams they don't understand. With God's help, Joseph interprets their dreams. The cupbearer promises to talk to pharaoh about Joseph and his situation, but forgets about Joseph. Still, Joseph trusted God.

Bottom Line: **When life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.** There will be times in a kid's life when something happens that just doesn't make sense like a divorce, moving to a new home or a new school, or getting a serious illness. And while that situation is confusing, we pray kids continue to trust God and allow God to help them get through that difficult time.

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 the conversations your group will have today. Ask God to give you wisdom and guidance to respond to any difficult circumstances that may come to light as a result of today's content. Pray also for the kids whose families are doing well. Pray that they would internalize today's message and be able to recall it during times when life doesn't make sense.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids:
 - How was your summer?
 - What was one good thing that happened (a high)?
 - What was one not so good thing that happened (a low)?
 - Do you know that you are never, ever alone? That God is always with you...in the good times and in the hard times? In the happy times and in the sad times? Next time you feel alone, remember that God is there...loving you through!

•• **WHO'S THE TALLEST**



What You Need: 15-20 paper plates, tape

What You Do:

- Use the tape to mark a start and finish line about 5 feet apart.
- Encourage the kids to line up behind the starting line.
- Let each child take a turn walking from the start to the finish with one plate on his/her head.
- If they make it, they go on the next round and add another plate. If the plates fall, they're out.
- Continue adding one plate each round, eliminating kids who lose their plates, until someone is declared the "Tallest Man/Woman!"
- NOTE: We'll place starting lines in the hallway in the large area by the preschool small group rooms. Feel free to use them if your room is too cramped to do this activity effectively.

What You Say: "That was a super silly circus game. I love our theme this month! [Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WoW we'll spend/we spent time exploring what it means to never be alone.

[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 ONE** (*application activity/review the Bible story*)

What You Need: Spark Story Bible, "Joseph and His Brothers" color sheets, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out "Joseph and His Brothers" color sheets and crayons. While the kids color, read "Joseph and His Brothers" on pages 48-53 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: "Wow! Things sure aren't going very well for Joseph are they? Think how hard it was. First, his dad gave him a beautiful coat to show how much he loved him...but his brothers got angry because they were jealous. Then, he had some dreams that made his whole family angry at him. What a bummer, huh? Finally, his brothers got so tired of Joseph that they threw him into a well and then sold him to some traveling traders who took him away to Egypt! But the good thing is that he was never alone. This week, we're remembering that [Bottom Line] **when life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.** Even when his family was angry at him and his brothers did mean things, Joseph still had God's love with him. Next week, we'll see what happened next!"

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

What You Need: *NOTE: you'll visit the paper plate peg game station for this memory verse activity

What You Do:

- Read this month's memory verse completely through one time...

What You Say: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5, NIV. Now, let's say it again, with you repeating after me..."

"Trust in the Lord (*pause for them to repeat after you*) with all your heart (*pause for them to repeat after you*) and lean not on (*pause for them to repeat after you*) your own understanding (*pause for them to repeat after you*). Proverbs 3:5 (*pause for them to repeat*)



after you).

What You Do:

- Take your group to the activity stations in the large area by the preschool small groups.
- Line up kids behind the starting line. Let them take turns throwing the paper plate rings around the paper towel stand.
- Once all the rings have been thrown, work together to put them in verse order and say it together.
- If time allows, repeat, moving the paper towel stand a few inches further away.

What You Say: “Way to go on that ring toss! And we learned our memory verse, too. I’m so glad that we don’t have to ‘lean on our own understanding’ because in life, there will always be things that don’t make sense. But we can always depend on and trust in God. **[Bottom Line] When life doesn’t make sense, you can trust God is with you.**”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: Small Group Covenant, pens

What You Say: “I am so looking forward to getting to know you all better this year...and for us to become great friends as we journey together and grow in faith. We all have a part to play in making this a safe and fun space for us to meet as a group each week. As part of that, we’re going to talk through a Small Group Covenant and actually sign it as a way of committing to working together. We’ll pull it out from time to time this year to remind ourselves what we’ve promised one another.”

What You Do:

- Make sure kids know this is something to be taken seriously as you read through the Small Group Covenant and talk through any points you’d like to highlight for the year.
- Sign it at the bottom and then pass it around so everyone can add their name. Make sure to provide help as needed.
- Place it in your small bin so you can pull it out from time to time and see how your group is doing at living out friendship in your group.

Let’s **PRAY** together before we go. Repeat after me...

Dear Lord, *(pause as they repeat after you)* thank you for today *(pause as they repeat after you)*. Thank you for our group *(pause as they repeat after you)*. Thank you for loving us *(pause as they repeat after you)*. Thank you that you are always with us...even when life doesn’t make sense *(pause as they repeat after you)*. Help us to be good friends to our group *(pause as they repeat after you)*. Amen.” *(pause as they repeat after you)*

[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.