



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.]

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## 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.)*

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

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

**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)*. 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:**

- Use the masking tape to mark a small starting line.
- Empty out your leader bin and place it about two feet away from the starting line.
- Line up kids behind the starting line. Let them take turns throwing the ball-pit ball into the bin.
- If a child gets the ball into the bin, she selects two people in the group to say this month's memory verse together.
- If she misses, she picks someone to say the verse with her.
- Repeat so that every child has a turn.

**What You Say:** "Did you feel pressure to sink the shot when it was your turn? How about if you were called on to say the verse? We all face pressure. But we can trust and depend on God. God will guide and direct our steps if we choose to put our trust in God. **[Bottom Line]** **When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.**"

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## PRAY AND SEND

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Pray for the group, asking God to help them remember that God is with them, even when the pressure is on...

**What You Say:** "Heavenly Father, you are an awesome, holy, BIG and powerful God. And yet, you know everything about us. You know when we face situations where we feel pressure or when we're scared about how things will turn out. Help us to remember that you are with us, just as you were with Joseph. We love you. In Jesus' name. Amen."

**[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.