



SEPTEMBER THEME

**TREK**

**An Adventure in Trust**

**BIBLE STORY**

**Genesis 37, 39:1-2**

Bad Day | Joseph Sold by His Brothers

**Spark Story Bible, pg. 48-53**

Joseph and His Brothers

**BOTTOM LINE**

When you think you're alone, 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.

**Key Question: What does it look like to trust God?** Once we discover we can trust God, we sometimes need help understanding what it means to trust God in different situations. We pray families learn some practical ways they can trust God at home, school, work and wherever life might take them.

This week, we find out what happens to Joseph, in **Genesis 37 and 39:1-2**. Joseph learned what it meant to trust God through difficulty. Because Joseph was Jacob's favorite son, his brothers hated him. This only became worse when Joseph had a series of dreams where his brothers bowed to him. The brothers get back at Joseph when they sell him to a band of traders headed to Egypt. He must have felt scared and completely alone. Thankfully, he wasn't. God was with him the whole time.

**Bottom Line: When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.** We all face times when we feel like we're alone. We hope this lesson from Joseph's life will encourage families as we remember that God is always with us.

**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 group member by name. Ask specifically for God to be near during times when kids may feel like they're alone, are having trouble making friends, or are going through a tough situation at home. Ask God to help kids feel God's presence in their lives and to help them trust God when they feel alone.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery**

**What You Need:** "Manipulatives" (21 pieces)

**What You Do:**

- Set out the "Manipulatives" and challenge kids to work together to arrange them in groups of:

- two

- four

- five

- Guide kids to observe what happens each time. (*There's one left over!*)

- Challenge kids to come up with 2 different ways they can arrange the "Manipulatives" so that there aren't any left over.



●● **CLUMPS**

*Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Tell kids to stand up and scatter around the room. (Note: you can combine with other grade 2/3 groups for this activity.)
- Tell them that when you call out, “Clumps of [insert number]. Go!,” they should gather into groups with that amount of people.
- When a clump forms, they hold hands in a circle.
- Continue playing, calling out different numbers.
- Each time, there will likely be a kid or two who gets left out. That’s okay. Just keep quickly calling out new numbers so they are able to jump back into the game.
- After playing for awhile, you might choose to start eliminating the kids who are left out of a clump until you get down to just two players.

**What You Say:** “At some point, almost all of you were left out during this game. It’s not fun to feel alone, is it? But we all feel that way sometimes. [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about what we can do when we feel alone.**”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to Fellowship Hall for Children’s Ministry 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.

●● **PAPER STORY** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Bibles, copy paper, markers

**What You Do:**

- Divide kids into four groups.
- Give each group a piece of copy paper, some markers, and a Bible.
- Assign each group a part of the story to illustrate on their piece of paper:
  - Genesis 37:1-11
  - Genesis 37:12-24
  - Genesis 37:25-35
  - Genesis 37:36; 39:1-2
- Tell groups they might need to illustrate more than one scene, based on what’s in their passage.
- After a set amount of time, tell kids to quickly finish up if they haven’t already.
- Encourage the groups to share their illustrations with everyone else and tell what happened in their part of the story.

**What You Say:** “Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, thrown into a dark well, and sold as a slave to Egypt. He must have felt all alone. But the Bible tells us God was with him. God was with Joseph when he was at home. God was with Joseph when he was in the well. And God was with Joseph in Egypt. God was there during Joseph’s terrible days AND his not-so-terrible days. God was with Joseph even when he felt all alone. [Bottom Line] **When you think you’re alone, you can trust God is with you,** just like God was with Joseph.”



●● **WHEN HAVE YOU FELT ALONE?** [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Copy paper, markers

**What You Do:**

- Set out the copy paper and markers.
- Tell kids to think about a time when they feel alone.
  - It might be when they're in bed in the dark.
  - It might be when they're on the playground at a new school or park.
  - It might be when their parents are going through a divorce.
- Instruct kids to think of something that can remind them God is with them during that time, and then draw that item on a piece of paper. For example:
  - If they feel alone in bed at night in the dark, they might draw a light bulb or flashlight.
  - If they feel alone on the playground, they can draw a hand or a person to represent Jesus being their friend.
- Encourage kids to share what they're drawing while they work. What are they drawing? Why are they drawing it?
- **NOTE:** Be sensitive to kids who might share something more personal than usual or something difficult going on at home.
- While kids share, you might want to write down some of their thoughts to use later.
- When kids are finished, tell them to lay their pictures at one end of your space.
- Call out a scenario you might have heard kids talking about or another one you think is relevant to the kids in your group.
- Point to one kid, and tell him to run to the pictures and pick one up that he thinks matches that scenario.
- Continue until each kid has a turn.

**What You Say:** "Everybody knows what it feels like to be alone. Maybe you've gotten lost in a store. Maybe you feel alone in your room when the lights go out at night. Some people can feel alone when they're surrounded by people they don't know—or sometimes even people they DO know. Being alone can make you uncomfortable or anxious, but it doesn't have to be that way. **[Make It Personal]** *(Tell kids about a time you felt alone and anxious, but then you remembered that God was with you, and you were better able to deal with the situation.)* **[Bottom Line]** *When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.*"

●● **PASS THE BAG** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** "Memory Verse Phrases," paper bag

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Put the "Memory Verse Phrases" into the paper bag. Shake the bag to mix up the phrases.
- Hand the bag to one kid. Instruct him to pull out a phrase strip.
- If it's the first phrase of the verse, he keeps it. If it's not, he puts it back and hands the bag to the next kid. Continue until the first phrase has been found. *(Note: If this takes too long, tell kids not to put the "wrong" phrases back into the bag until the right one has been found.)*
- Play continues in the same way with the next phrase, and so on.
- Once the entire verse has been found, kids line up the phrases in order and say it together several times.

**What You Say:** "This game was frustrating at times, just like life can be frustrating. Things don't happen the way you think they should or as fast as you think they should. And sometimes you feel alone. You might have felt alone in this game—even though you were surrounded by other people—because you never could seem to pull out the right phrase at the right time. But even **[Bottom Line]** *when you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.*"

