



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.

•• **JUST FOR FUN**

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

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 4/5 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.



●● **GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME**

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

What You Need: Crepe paper, tape

What You Do:

- Set out strips of crepe paper and tape.
- Ask your group to choose somebody to be “it.”
- The goal is to cover as much of your group member as possible in the allotted time (60 seconds).

What You Say: “You did a great job covering your small group friend with colorful crepe paper. There is a story in the Bible about a young man who was given a beautiful coat to cover himself. Anyone have a guess as to who the young man is? Yes! Joseph! **[Transition]** Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard how Joseph’s story can teach us about trusting God.”

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

●● **TAKE A SNAPSHOT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Paper bag, markers

What You Do:

- Set out markers and the paper bag where everybody can share them.
- As a group, brainstorm some times you might feel alone.
- Encourage kids to write several examples on the paper bag. Examples could include:
 - When you are nervous or sad
 - When you have to try something new, or go to a new place or meet new people
 - At night or in the dark
 - When you are scared or lost
 - When people are mean to you

Note: Kids will use the bag again in the “Verses to Take with You Activity”

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

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Chair, scraps of copy paper, markers

What You Do:

- Set a chair in front of the group and explain that the chair is the “Hot Seat.”
- Play a Bible review game with the group.



- Select a kid to sit in the chair or the “Hot Seat”
- Write a word on a piece of scrap paper from the list below and then hold it up behind the kid in the “Hot Seat” so the group can see what the word is but the kid in the “Hot Seat” can’t see it. Explain all the words have something to do with the story.
- The group gives clues and the kid in the “Hot Seat” tries to guess the word.
- After each word guessed correctly, discuss what the word has to do with the story.
- Give everyone a chance to be in the “Hot Seat.”
- “Hot Seat” Words and potential discussion questions:
 - Jacob: Who is Jacob? What was God’s promise to Jacob?
 - Coat: Why were the brothers jealous of Joseph’s coat? How could the brother’s jealousy make Joseph feel alone?
 - Straw: What did straw have to do with the story? What did this dream mean? Why do you think the dream made Joseph’s brothers mad?
 - Well: Give an example of when someone might feel alone.
 - Egypt: Joseph was in a foreign country with no family, no friends. Where does the Bible say God was? What is something we can do to remind us God is always with us?
 - Lie: In this story, what lies were told? What can be some consequences of telling lies?
 - Trust: Who could not be trusted in this story? Why? Who could be trusted? Why?
 - Jesus: What did Jesus do when He felt alone? How can praying help us to trust God?

•• **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - How do we know God is with us when we are alone?
 - What do you do to remember to trust God? (*To prompt conversation, be prepared to share a time you felt alone and what you did to remember to trust God.*)
 - What does it look like when you trust God when you are scared? Or when you are alone?
 - What does it tell others about who God is when you trust God no matter what?

•• **VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU** [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 (*from “Take a Snapshot” activity*)

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.
- Play continues in the same way with the next phrase, and so on.
- Once the entire verse has been found, challenge your group to recite it from memory.

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]**

