



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!)

●● **ALONE OR TOGETHER**

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:

- Guide kids to mingle or “trek” around your environment.
- Call out different things that are done either alone or with others, such as:

—playing tag	—playing soccer	—playing “Mother, May I?”	—playing an instrument
—drawing	—playing “Tic-Tac-Toe”	—playing tug of war	—coloring a picture
—reading	—riding a bike	—watching TV	—playing “Go Fish”
—taking a nap	—going grocery shopping	—raking leaves	—picking up toys
- If the activity is something that has to be done with others, kids should quickly huddle all together to form a group.
- If it’s something that can be done alone, kids should separate and stand alone.
- NOTE: For some activities, some kids may vote for “alone” while others may vote for “with others,” and that’s okay.
- Vary your voice and pace to keep interest high.
- End by calling out something that’s usually done alone.

What You Say: “[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about something ELSE that we can do when we’re alone.”

[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.

•• **COLORFUL COAT** [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: Spark Story Bible, “Colorful Coat” coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Read “Joseph and His Brothers” to your group from the Spark Story Bible (p. 48-53).
- Hand out the “Colorful Coat” coloring pages. Set out crayons where everybody can share them.
- Encourage kids to create a colorful coat like the one Jacob gave to Joseph. They can follow the guide if they want to, or they can color it any way they choose.
- As kids color, invite them to recall as much of the Bible story as possible. Be sure they touch on the following main points:
 - Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son. When Jacob gave Joseph a colorful coat, his brothers were jealous.
 - Joseph had dreams, and in the dreams his family bowed down to him. This made his brothers even more upset.
 - Joseph’s brothers wanted to get rid of him. They decided to sell him into slavery and then lie to their father.
 - Through it all, God was with Joseph.
- Encourage kids to take their colorful coat drawing home as a reminder that **[Bottom Line] when you think you’re alone, you can trust God is with you.**

What You Say: “Joseph’s brothers threw him into a dark pit and sold him to a group of traders. How do you think Joseph felt? (*sad, angry, alone*) Through all he was feeling, the Bible tells us that God was with Joseph. God was with Joseph at home. God was with Joseph in the pit. And God was with Joseph in Egypt. And you know what? God is with you, too!

“What are some times that you feel alone? (*when my sister won’t play with me; when I go to school, when I’m alone in my room at*)



night) [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you feel alone, too.) But are we ever really alone? (No.) Just like God was with Joseph, God is with you, too. God loves you, and God cares for you! So, remember: **[Bottom Line] when you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.**"

●● **MATCH WALK** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: "Match Walk" cards, tape

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Tape a "Match Walk" card to each child's back. (*No peeking!*)
- Guide kids to silently mingle ("*trek*") around your small group space.
- Call out one of the following scenarios:
 - You may feel alone when someone is being mean to you.
 - You may feel alone when other kids won't let you play with them.
 - You may feel alone when other kids are doing something you want to do.
 - You may feel alone when adults in your house are arguing.
 - You may feel alone when you're at a sleepover and you miss your home.
 - You may feel alone when you have to play by yourself.
 - You may feel alone when you go to a new classroom.
 - You may feel alone when you're sick.
 - You may feel alone when you have to move.
 - You may feel alone when you're lost in a store.
- Lead kids to gather around the child whose picture matches the scenario given.
- Continue through all the cards.
- For variety, lead kids to "trek" in different ways: rock climbing, snow skiing, rowing a boat, swimming, etc.

What You Say: "We all know what it's like to feel alone. We've felt alone when we've gotten lost in a store. We've felt alone in our rooms at night. We've felt alone when no one wants to play with us. Sometimes being alone can feel uncomfortable—even scary.

"But **[Bottom Line] when you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.** God loves you, and God promises to NEVER leave you. So, remember: **[Bottom Line] When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.** Talk to God and tell God how you feel. God will help you know that you are not alone!"

●● **MANY COLORS/STEPPING STONES** [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: Bible, "Trust" coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child a "Trust" coloring page and one crayon (*make sure every kid has a different colored crayon*).
- Encourage kids to color the letters in the word "Trust" and the heart.
- As kids work, comment that when you look at all of their coloring sheets, you are reminded of all the colors of Joseph's coat.
- As a group, look up Proverbs 3:5 in the Bible by using the following helpful tips...

Finding verses with Kindergartners/1st graders | Show the kids what the Table of Contents looks like. Lead them 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 find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page and then explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 5 in chapter 3. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- Unpack the word "trust," emphasizing that trust is putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.
- Arrange the kids' "Trust" coloring pages in a circle. Guide kids to stand outside the circle, with each child by their paper.

