



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 work together to arrange them in groups of:
 - two
 - four
 - five
- Talk about 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:

- Kids will mingle or “trek” around your space while you call out different activities. Kids should decide together if the activity is something you’d do as a group or something you’d do alone. If it’s something they’d do with someone else, they should all skip as they move into a huddle together, if it’s something they would do alone, they should walk using giant steps as they spread out and stand on their own.

What You Say: “OK. We’re going to think about things we’d do with other people and things we’d do on our own. I’m going to call out some activities. If it’s something you’d do with other people, skip toward one another and make a big huddle. If it’s something you’d do by yourself, take some giant steps away from everyone so you’re standing by yourself. Make sense? *(pause for response)* Here we go!...

—Our first one...would you play tag with other people or by yourself? *(help them decide and then have them skip together into a huddle)* Good job! Playing tag by yourself might be kind of hard, wouldn’t it?

—Our next one...think about taking a nap. Would you take a nap with someone else or could you do that one alone? *(help them brainstorm)* That one’s kind of tough. It could be naptime for the whole house, couldn’t it? But maybe it’s better to nap on your own so you get a good rest, huh? Let’s take some giant steps away from each other for that one.

—OK. What about playing soccer? Do you usually do that alone or with friends? *(Help them determine that it might be more fun to play with friends)* That’s true! You could shoot on a net by yourself...but it might be more fun to play soccer with friends. Let’s skip together into a big huddle!

—Last one. What about picking up your room? Is that something you can do on your own? Sure! Let’s take some giant steps away from each other.”

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, remind them of the following parts of the Bible story...

What You Say: “OK. As you color Joseph’s coat, let’s think about today’s Bible story. Do you remember why Joseph’s brothers were so angry with him? *(Jacob spent the most time with Joseph; Jacob had a colorful coat made for Joseph and they were jealous and thought that he loved Joseph more)*

—“That’s right! The brothers really didn’t like that, did they? And then, do you remember what happened next? When Joseph had dreams? Do you remember what his brothers did in the dreams? *(They bowed down to him.)* That’s right. His brothers bowed down to



him. But this made his brothers even more upset. They really didn't like that, did they?

—It made Joseph sad that his brothers got mad about his dream, didn't it? And then even his dad got mad about his dream. Joseph must have felt really alone, didn't he?

—Do you remember what happened next? (*pause for ideas*) That's right! His brothers did something horrible, didn't they? They threw him in a pit and then sold him to a group of traders! And then they lied to their dad! How horrible! But the good thing about it all, is that even when things seemed so horrible, Joseph was never alone. God was always there. And you know what? Even when you feel alone...no matter what happens in life, you are never alone. God is always there."

What You Say: "What are some times that you feel alone? (*when my sister won't play with me; 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."

What You Do:

- 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.

•• **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.
- Help 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: "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*).

