



**SEPTEMBER THEME**

**TREK**

**An Adventure in Trust**

**BIBLE STORY**

**Genesis 40 (Genesis 39)**

Steel Bars | Joseph in Jail

**Spark Story Bible, pg. 54-56**

Pharaoh's Dreams, Part 1

**BOTTOM LINE**

When life doesn't make sense, 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: When is it hard to trust God?** Trusting God can be easy when everything is going your way. But what happens when life doesn't go your way? When they can start identifying when it's hard to trust God, families will be able to create a plan for how they can trust God in those situations.

This week, we find out what happens to Joseph in Egypt. In **Genesis 40** we discover that while Joseph was thrown into prison for a crime he didn't commit, God helped him interpret a couple of dreams that came true. He thought this was his chance to get out of jail. Instead Joseph was forgotten and stayed in prison several more years. Even though God was with Joseph, he must have been confused at what was happening to him.

**Bottom Line: When life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.** From not being able to understand something in school to a family situation you never expected, what's happening in our life won't always make sense. We pray that no matter what families face, they'll trust that God is in control and they can trust God to help them get through it.

**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. Pray for God's comfort and peace during the hard times and challenging circumstances when life doesn't make sense. Pray that, during these times, your kids will experience God's presence not only through the Holy Spirit, but also through the presence of the group that surrounds them each week at church.

**•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**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:**

- Explain the concept of a cupbearer (or wine taster, in NIV): it's a person who tasted drink and food before the king did to make sure he wasn't poisoned.
- Tell kids to pretend they're the king's cupbearer.
- Let your kids take turns sharing the following:
  - Things kids would LOVE to taste for the king
  - Things kids would HATE to taste for the king

**•• SILLY SENTENCES**

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



**What You Need:** “Silly Sentences” activity pages, scissors, clear tape

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a “Silly Sentences” activity page. Let them take turns reading the sentences out loud.
- Acknowledge that the sentences don’t quite make sense.
- Set out scissors and tape where kids can share them.
- Encourage kids to cut the sentences apart on the lines.
- Challenge them to then cut each sentence apart in one place and rearrange the pieces to create sentences that make sense. (*NOTE: You can let kids figure out where to cut, or you can tell them to cut after the “and” in each sentence.*)
- Let kids read the new sentences aloud.

**What You Say:** “Those were some silly sentences at first! They didn’t make a whole lot of sense. But then you figured out how to make them make sense. [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about what to do during other times when things don’t make sense.**”

[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.

●● **AN EMOTIONAL STORY** [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:** “Bible Story” activity page, dessert-sized paper plates, markers

**What You Do:**

- Give each child three plates, and set out the markers.
- Tell kids to think of three emotions the people in today’s Bible story might have felt.
- Instruct kids to use the plates and markers to make emojis for each of those emotions.
- **NOTE:** Kids don’t all have to make the same emotions. Let them each pick the ones they want. If they need help thinking of some, suggest anger, confusion, fear, sadness, etc.
- Explain that you will read the Bible story aloud, and kids should hold up an emoji plate in front of their face when someone in the story would have felt that emotion.
- Read the story aloud from the “Bible Story” activity page while kids use their plates to show emotions.

**What You Say:** “Sometimes bad things happen—even when you haven’t done anything to deserve it and it simply doesn’t make sense. Joseph’s own brothers sold him to be a slave. Then he was taken to Egypt. And then he was thrown into prison for something he didn’t even do! How do you think Joseph probably felt when all of this happened to him? (*Allow for responses.*) You might think that if God was really with Joseph, only good things would have happened to him. But that’s not the way life works. Bad things happen because we live in an imperfect world and sometimes bad stuff just happens. Bad things also happen because we all sin and make mistakes, and the things we do sometimes affect people who didn’t deserve it. But even **[Bottom Line] when life doesn’t make sense, you can trust God is with you.** God is always in control, even when we can’t see it. Joseph knew it, and we can know it too.”

●● **GOOD REASON OR NOT?** [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:** No supplies needed



**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to line up side by side at one end of your space, while you stand on the opposite side.
- Explain that you'll call out an instruction, and kids need to follow it.
- Their goal is to make it across the room to you.
- Start calling out instructions (*see below for examples*).
  - There should be absolutely no rhyme or reason to why sometimes kids move forward and sometimes they move back.
  - But in general, most of the instructions should entail some type of moving forward, so the game will progress.
- Once a kid reaches you, you can start the game over if you have time and kids have interest.
- Sample instructions (*and/or make up some of your own*)...
  - If you're wearing red, take three steps forward.
  - If you have blue eyes, take one giant step forward.
  - If you have a sister, take two steps back.
  - If your last name starts with A, B, C, or D, take two tiny hops back.
  - If you are in second grade, take two steps forward.
  - If you have a dog, take three tiny steps forward.
  - If your first name has four letters, take one step back.
  - If you have a brother, take one step back.
  - If you had cereal for breakfast, take one giant leap forward.
  - If you rode a bike this week, take two steps forward.
- If you're ready to end the game and nobody is close to you, say: "If you heard a Bible story about Joseph today, skip to me!"

**What You Say:** "That game didn't always seem fair, did it? Just like in this game, some things aren't fair and don't make sense. However, in the game, I didn't have a good reason when someone had to step back, but God ALWAYS has a reason, even if we might never know it. We can always trust that God is with us, even when it doesn't make sense. We won't always know WHY bad things happen. Sometimes life just doesn't make sense. There are times when God lets us feel pain and heartbreak and loss. But **[Bottom Line] when life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.**"

•• **TRUST IN GOD** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

**Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application**

**What You Need:** Bibles, "Trust in God" activity pages, pens

**What You Do:**

- Look up this month's memory verse (*Proverbs 3:5*) using the navigation tips below...

**Finding verses with 2nd + 3rd graders |** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Proverbs in the list under "Old Testament." 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. When they find Proverbs, 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.
- Say the verse aloud together several times.
- Hand out the "Trust in God" activity pages and pens.
- Divide your group into 4 teams. Assign each team one of the verses/passages on the activity page. Using the same skills just learned, ask groups to look up their verse/passages, read it, and think about how even though the person didn't understand God's whole plan at that time, he still trusted God.

**What You Say:** "In all of these situations, God asked someone to do something that might have seemed a little crazy, or God allowed something to happen that seemed really bad. But, in each of these stories, God's plan for the person ended up being good in the end."

