

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.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME



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

What You Need: Slips of paper, pens

What You Do:

- Give kids two slips of paper and a pen.
- Ask them to write the word “if” on one slip of paper and “then” on the other.
- Guide them to turn over the “if” paper and write the first part of an if/then statement on the back.
—For example, “If I see a snake in a tree . . .” or “If I walk in the rain . . .”
- On the back of the “then” slip of paper, kids should finish the statement starting with the word, “then.”
—For example, “. . . then I will scream and run away.” Or “. . . then I will get wet.”
- Have kids turn in their papers. Separate them into “if” and “then” piles. Shuffle each pile and set them where kids can reach them.
- Encourage kids to take turns selecting slips of paper from each pile and reading the sentences.

What You Say: “Many of our statements, though very funny, simply didn’t make sense. Sometimes events occur or people say things that just don’t make sense to us and we find ourselves asking “what’s up with that?” **[Transition]** Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about something we should do when life just doesn’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.

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

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

What You Need: Paper plates, markers, masking tape

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of someone they trust.
- Allow time for the kids to discuss why they trust that person.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team 5-10 paper plates and encourage teams to write on each plate one reason they would trust someone.
—For example: they do what they say, they keep promises, they speak from experience, they don’t lie, etc.
- Establish a starting line and a finish line. Use masking tape if needed.
- Challenge kids to race from the starting line to the finish line, but they must follow some rules:
—Explain that each of the plates is a stone.
—Teams must “move in trust,” so to move from the start to the finish line, they can only step on the stones.
—If they don’t quite have enough stones to simply make a path from the start to the finish line, they must figure out how to relay the stones back and forth so that each team member makes it all the way across.
—If anyone steps off a stone, the team goes back to the starting line and begins again.
—The first team to get all their teammates to the finish line wins.
- Declare a winner.
- Ask the following questions...
—When do you think it would be hard to trust someone? (Use the examples on the “stones” to prompt discussion.)
—Do you think you could trust someone you don’t know? Why or why not?

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

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

What You Need: “Question” cards and “Response” cards

What You Do:

- Tell kids they are going to play a Bible review game.
- Establish a starting line.
- Shuffle the “Response” cards.
- To play the game:
 - Choose somebody to answer Question Card #1.
 - If the chosen kid answers correctly, they draw a “Response” card and follow the directions on the card.
 - Some of the questions may have more than one answer. Allow other kids to elaborate on the answer given, and if their answers are correct as well, they can draw “Response” cards, too.
- To prompt kids, ask “does anyone have something to add?”
 - Don’t identify the finish line. If kids ask, you can say, “That is a good question. I will have to think about it.”
 - Continue asking the rest of the questions, in order. When all the questions have been answered, declare the winner as the person closest to the starting line.
- Ask the following questions...
 - What about this game made no sense?
 - What about Joseph’s story didn’t make sense or seemed unfair?
 - Why might it be hard for Joseph to trust God?
 - Where was God in our story today?
 - Where is God when things in our life don’t make sense or seem unfair?

●● **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 the following questions...

- When is it hard to trust God?
- How do you think Joseph felt during the dark times in his story?
- It is easy to trust God when things are going good, but what can you do to remember to trust God when life isn’t going as we want?
- It is hard to trust someone you don’t know. How can you get to know God?

●● **VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, index cards, markers

What You Do:

- Look up Proverbs 3:5 and read the verse together.
- Ask the following questions...
 - What do you think it means by “all your heart”? So, what does it mean to “Trust the LORD with all your heart”?
 - What does it mean to “not lean” on something? For example, if I said, “I am not going to lean on my car working today,” what do I mean?
 - So, what does “Lean not on your own understanding” mean?
- Give kids paper and markers.



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GRADE 4-5

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

- Instruct them to write down Proverbs 3:5 on one side of the card and, on the back, write what the verse means to them in their own words.
—Encourage kids to decorate their cards as well and tape them up somewhere at home like on their bathroom mirrors or the headboard of their beds.

PRAY AND SEND

Bring your time to a close with prayer and encouragement to live out in your daily lives what you've experienced and learned in your time together

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

What You Need: Copy paper, pens, GodTime Cards

What You Do:

- Give kids paper and a pen.
- Explain that sometimes it is hard to remember to trust God, especially when life doesn't make sense.
- Joseph's life was filled with things that didn't make sense to him and yet God was with Joseph through it all.
- Many people we learn about in the bible, including Jesus, had to face a lot of difficult situations.
- Instruct kids to write on the top of their paper, "I can trust God even when..."
- Encourage kids to complete the sentence with an example of when it is hard to remember to trust God.
- Instruct kids to write, "Because God is..."
- Randomly assign each kid a letter of the alphabet. They should think of a word starting with that letter that describes God.
- Repeat several times, allowing kids to brainstorm with one another if they are given a challenging letter.
- Close in the following prayer...

What You Say: “God, there are things that make no sense to us, but you know everything! You understand everything! And you alone can take the bad and the confusing, and use it for good. God, we thank you for the story of Joseph and his example of how to trust you even when things aren’t going well for us. And God, thank you for Jesus and for Jesus’ trust in you in all situations he faced. God, we know we can trust you even when... *(allow kids to read their examples of when it is hard to trust God)* because you are... *(allow kids to read their words they wrote about who God is)*. We love you! Amen!”

Give each child a **GodTime Card** as adults arrive to pick up. Sunday leaders, hand out **Parent Cue Cards** (*in your small leader bin*) to any family who has not yet received one this month.

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