



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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to join with you in saying some classic tongue twisters.
 - Reciting them as a group adds excitement and can help even the shyest child participate.
 - Be sure to emphasize the fun (*and zaniness!*) more than the challenge.
 - I saw a kitten eating chicken in the kitchen.
 - If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?
 - How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?



—Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear, Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair, Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't very fuzzy, was he?

•• DOES IT MAKE SENSE?

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

What You Need: "Does It Make Sense?" activity page and "What and Where" cards

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Set the "Does It Make Sense?" activity page where kids can see it.
- Invite kids to take turns choosing one "what" card and one "where" card and placing them on the "Does It Make Sense?" activity page.
- Read each silly scenario with the kids, pointing to the words as you read aloud.
 - "Does it make sense for an elephant to be in a sandbox?"
 - "Does it make sense for a giraffe to be in a mailbox?"
 - "Does it make sense for a shark to be in a sock?"

What You Say: "Those were some pretty silly situations that didn't make sense! [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about a time someone was in a place that didn't make sense to him, either."

[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.

•• GOD IS WITH YOU! [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: Spark Story Bible, "God IS with You" activity pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child a "God IS with You" activity page.
- Guide kids to point to the first picture (*David and Goliath*) and tell what's happening.
 - NOTE:** You can read the stories that the pictures depict in the Spark Story Bible: *David and Goliath* (p. 130), *Fiery Furnace* (p. 180), *Daniel and the Lions* (p. 184), *Pharaoh's Dreams* (p.54; **NOTE:** stop this story after the first sentence on p. 56)
- Invite kids to tell how THEY would feel if they were David.
- Lead kids to use their finger to trace the path to the picture that shows what happens next.
- Guide kids to describe what they see. "God was with David. God gave David the skill he needed to defeat Goliath."
- Continue with the remaining images. For each story, emphasize the truth that God was with that person.
- When you come to the picture showing Joseph in jail and kids discover that the matching image is blank, emphasize that when Joseph was in jail, he didn't know what would happen next. But even though things didn't make sense to him, he chose to trust God no matter what.
- Guide kids to trace each path with a crayon and then draw what THEY think happened to Joseph next.

- Tell kids they'll learn more next week!
- On the back of the activity page, kids can draw something in their life that seems confusing or doesn't make sense to them (*It might be a tough situation at home, something they're struggling to learn at school, or a friend they are not getting along with*).
- **[Make It Personal]** Draw something—child-appropriate, of course—that doesn't make sense to you. **Tell kids how even though it seems confusing, you choose to trust God with all your heart.**

What You Say: "Maybe you have to move to a new town or to a new school. Maybe your mom or dad can't find a job. Maybe you are not getting along with a friend. But when sad or confusing things happen, think about what you DO know about God. Think about Bible stories you've heard where God solved the problem. Think about how God helped David defeat Goliath. Think about how God protected Daniel by sending an angel to shut the lions' mouths. Think about how God kept Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego safe in the fiery furnace. And think about how Joseph trusted God even when he was in jail. And remember, when life doesn't make sense, you can be like David and Daniel and Joseph. **[Bottom Line]** **When life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you."**

•• **WALKING BLIND** [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 each child to find a partner. If there is an odd number of kids in your group, pair yourself with a child.
- Choose a team to go first. They should stand up and step a few feet away from the small group table. Instruct one of the partners to close their eyes. Encourage the team to walk around the table with the open-eyed teammate helping the closed-eyed teammate.
- Then, have the teammates switch roles and try it again.
- Continue until all teams have had a turn.

What You Say: "How did it feel when you couldn't see where you were going? (*scary, fun*) How were you able to complete the challenge even though you couldn't see? (*I stayed close to my partner, I followed my partner, I had my partner to help me.*)

"When you couldn't see where you were going, you had someone to help you, didn't you? You had your partner. The same is true for us when we're confused or when things don't make sense. We have someone who's with us and helping us, too. Who is that? (*Pause.*) Yes, God! God promises to never leave us or turn away from us. God will always help us and work things for good. So **[Bottom Line]** **when life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you."**

•• **SAY WHAT?** [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 Verse" cards

What You Do:

- Shuffle up the "Bible Verse" cards and set them out on your small group table in random order.
- Read the verse to your group in the mixed-up order.
- Ask, "Does this make any sense?" and "What could this possibly mean?!"
- Shuffle up the cards and try again. Repeat a few times.
- Then, work together as a group to put the cards in the correct order.
- Read the verse and show excitement that the sentence finally makes sense!
- Lead your group in repeating the verse several times in an attempt to memorize it.

What You Say: "When bad or sad things happen, we may feel sad or confused because we don't understand why those things are happening. We might even think about not trusting God. But the truth is, when sad or confusing things happen, those are the times

