



SEPTEMBER THEME

TREK

An Adventure in Trust

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 41

Under Pressure | Joseph Interprets
Pharaoh's Dreams

Spark Story Bible, pg. 56-59

Pharaoh's Dreams, Part 2

BOTTOM LINE

When the pressure is on, 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 do you need to trust God with right now? We hope that this week will inspire families to deeply share with one another, kids can continue that growth in small group, and parents in parenting tools, as they will have a chance to talk through situations in their own life where trusting God is important. We pray this is a powerful week for families.

Next, we see how God is faithful to Joseph in **Genesis 41**. Joseph seemed to continually find himself in situations where he needed to trust God. Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret. It's in this moment the king's cupbearer, who was in prison with Joseph, remembered how Joseph had interpreted his dream. At once, Pharaoh sent for Joseph. He went and with God's help interpreted the dreams and offered a plan for helping Egypt survive the famine that God says is coming. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the entire kingdom.

Bottom Line: When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you. Kids face moments all of the time when they'll need to trust God. Rather than getting scared, they can put their trust in God and face whatever comes their way.

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 God to help you have great conversations today about the things that cause feelings of pressure for your group. Pray that God would help you use what you learn to guide kids as they learn to trust God in those situations.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

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

What You Need: "Joseph" coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out "Joseph" coloring pages. Set out crayons where everybody can share them.
- As kids color, review what you have been learning about Joseph during the past two weeks.

What You Say: "All month long we've been thinking about what it looks like to trust God. We've heard the story of a man named, what was it again? (*pause for answers: Joseph!*). That's right. Joseph! Remember way back in our first week? Do you remember



what Joseph's brothers did? (*pause for answers*) That's right! They threw him into a pit and then sold him to some traders! Not very nice, was it? But what did we learn? Even when Joseph felt all alone, he wasn't, was he? Nope. God was always there. And we can remember that the same is true for us: When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you!

Then the next week we kept learning about Joseph's story. He was thrown in jail! But even then, he trusted God and we learned from his example that even when we don't know what's coming next, we can trust God, too. Remember, when life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.

Now, today, we're going to hear the rest of Joseph's story. I can't wait...how about you?"

•• THE PRESSURE'S ON!

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:

- Lead kids in a few physical challenges:
 - “Bow” pose: Kids lie on their stomachs, bend their knees, lift their chests, grasp their ankles, and look straight ahead.
 - “Standing” on their knees while holding their feet, bending their knees and lifting their feet to their bodies.
 - Balancing on one foot or, for more challenge, balancing on one foot with eyes closed
- If you have a stopwatch, time how long kids can do the challenges.

What You Say: “Great job, guys! That was a lot of pressure to do those challenges for as long as you could! **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about someone who had to do something really difficult under a lot of pressure.**”

[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.

•• REBUS REVIEW [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: Spark Story Bible, “Rebus Review” activity page

What You Do:

- Review today's Bible story by reading part 2 of “Pharaoh's Dreams” from the Spark Story Bible (*p. 56 paragraph 2-p.59*).
- Guide your group to stand up and step back from the table so they have room to move.
- Read the “Rebus Review” poem, guiding kids to do the motions with you.
- If time allows, repeat the poem.

What You Say: “It seemed like Joseph was always under pressure. He was sold into slavery by his own brothers, taken away from his home, and thrown into jail! And the next thing you know, he was standing before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, who wanted Joseph to tell him what his dreams meant! Now THAT's pressure!”



“But even when he was under pressure, Joseph trusted God. He knew that God was with him. And God is with you, too. God is with you when someone’s sick and you don’t know why. God is with you when you need to stand up to a bully. And God is with you when you’re tempted to lie because telling the truth might get you into trouble. But no matter what pressure you’re facing, God is with you. So here’s the one thing to remember today: **[Bottom Line] When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.**”

●● **PRESSURE TIME!** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Pressure Time!” activity pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Pressure Time!” activity page. Set out the crayons where kids can share them.
- Guide kids to point to the picture at the top of the page.
- Work with the kids to describe what’s happening in the picture.
- Help them draw a line from each picture on the left to the picture on the right that shows something good the child can do when the pressure’s on.
- When done, briefly review each scenario. Be sure to emphasize the truth that **[Bottom Line] when the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.**
- If you have time, lead kids to pantomime the “solutions” shown on the activity page.

What You Say: “There are times when we all have to do things that seem hard. We might have to go to a new class, go to the doctor, ask for help when we’re lost, or learn new words. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you needed to trust that God was with you. Maybe it was when someone was sick, when you lost your job, or when you had to do something difficult. Remember to keep your story age-appropriate.)** But whenever things seem hard—even scary—we can trust God is with us. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids how God was with you in your situation.)**”

“Is there something hard for you that YOU can trust God with right now? (As they share with the group, invite kids to draw about it on the back of their activity pages.) No matter what it is, God loves you, and God will help you get through it. So this week, remember: **[Bottom Line] When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.**”

●● **FOLLOW THE (TRUSTED) LEADER** [Hear from God | Memory Verse 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:

- As a group, practice saying (or singing!) this month’s memory verse from Proverbs 3:5 (found in the left column on the first page of this leader guide).
- Then, take your group on a “follow the leader” trek! Have the kids form a line behind you. Go for a single file walk while leading the group to do random activities (such as clapping their hands, hopping on one foot, flying like an airplane, etc.) as you go. They should pay close attention and do what they see you doing. End the trek back in your small group space.

What You Say: “Was it hard to trust me and do what I asked you to do? Why or why not? (Yes, I was worried that I would fall. Yes, I never knew what you were going to do next!) The pressure was on to trust my directions, wasn’t it? But after you trusted and did what I asked you to do, what was it like? (pause for answers)”

“Trusting God can be scary sometimes, especially if you don’t know how things are going to work out or even IF they’re going to work out. But you can trust God no matter what, because God loves you and God knows what’s best for you. So this week, remember that **[Bottom Line] when the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.**”

