



WEEK TWO – SEPTEMBER 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Bad Day* ▪ Genesis 37; 39:1–2

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. Do not depend on your own understanding.” – Proverbs 3:5 (NirV)*

Life App: *Trust—Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: Next, we find out what happens to Jacob’s son, 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.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Hula-hoop

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Set the hula-hoop on the floor, and guide five or six kids to stand in a circle around it. Make sure they're spaced evenly.
- Instruct them to reach down and pick up the hoop.
- Tell them that when you count to three, they each need to lean back at the same time while still holding onto the hoop.
- They'll need to trust that the other kids are all going to lean back, so nobody falls down.
- Make sure every kid gets a turn.
- Let kids experiment with different numbers of people around the hoop, as long as they can do it calmly and with self-control, so no one falls backward.

2. Clumps

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Tell kids to stand up and scatter around the room.
- Tell them that when you call out, "Clumps of [insert number]. Go!" they should gather into groups with that amount of people.
- When a clump forms, they hold hands in a circle.
- Continue playing, calling out different numbers.
- Each time, there will likely be a kid or two who gets left out. That's okay. Just keep quickly calling out new numbers so they are able to jump back into the game.
- After playing for awhile, you might choose to start eliminating the kids who are left out of a clump until you get down to just two players.

What You Say:

*“At some point, almost all of you were left out during this game. It’s not fun to feel alone, is it? But we all feel that way sometimes. [Transition] **Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear about what we can do when we feel alone.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *When you think you’re alone, you can trust God is with you. Kids will face times when they feel like they’re alone. We hope this lesson from Joseph’s life will encourage them as they remember that God is always with them.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Paper Story

[Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Lengths of butcher paper, markers, Bibles

What You Do:

- Divide kids into four groups.
- Give each group a piece of butcher paper, some markers, and a Bible.
- Assign each group a part of the story to illustrate on their piece of butcher paper:
 - Genesis 37:1–11
 - Genesis 37:12–24
 - Genesis 37:25–35
 - Genesis 37:36; 39:1–2
- Tell groups they might need to illustrate more than one scene, based on what’s in their passage.
- After a set amount of time, tell kids to quickly finish up if they haven’t already.
- Encourage the groups to share their illustrations with everyone else and tell what happened in their part of the story.

What You Say:

“Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, thrown into a dark well, and sold as a slave to Egypt. He must have felt all alone. But the Bible tells us God was with him. God was with Joseph when he was at home. He was with Joseph when he was in the well. And God was with Joseph

*in Egypt. God was there during Joseph’s terrible days AND his not-so-terrible days. He was with Joseph even when he felt all alone. [Bottom Line] **When you think you’re alone, you can trust God is with you, just like He was with Joseph.***”

2. When Have You Felt Alone?

[Memory Verse Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Felt, scissors, tacky glue

What You Do:

- Set out the felt, scissors, and tacky glue.
- Tell kids to think about a time when they feel alone.
 - It might be when they’re in bed in the dark.
 - It might be when they’re on the playground at a new school or park.
 - It might be when their parents are going through a divorce.
- Instruct kids to think of something that can remind them God is with them during that time, and then make that item out of felt. For example:
 - If they feel alone in bed at night in the dark, they might cut out a light bulb or flashlight.
 - If they feel alone on the playground, they can cut out a hand or a person to represent Jesus being their friend.
- Encourage kids to share what they’re making while they work. What are they making? Why are they making it?
 - *Note: Be sensitive to kids who might share something more personal than usual or something difficult going on at home.*
- While kids share, you might want to write down some of their thoughts to use later.
- When kids are finished, tell them to lay their felt items at one end of your space.
- Call out a scenario you might have heard kids talking about or another one you think is relevant to the kids in your group.
- Point to one kid, and tell him to run to the felt items and pick one up that he thinks matches that scenario.
- Continue until each kid has a turn.

What You Say:

“Everybody knows what it feels like to be alone. Maybe you’ve gotten lost in a store. Maybe you feel alone in your room when the lights go out at night. Some people can feel alone when they’re surrounded by people they don’t know—or sometimes even people they DO know. Being alone can make you uncomfortable or anxious, but it doesn’t have to be that way.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you felt alone and anxious, but then you remembered that God was with you, and you were better able to deal with the situation.)

[Bottom Line] When you think you’re alone, you can trust God is with you.”

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Explain that a lot of times when Jesus was alone, He prayed.
 - When He was sad, exhausted, or if He just wanted to spend time with God, Jesus prayed.
 - He prayed for himself, and He prayed for His friends.
- Tell kids to partner up so they can pray with a friend.
- Encourage kids to each share at least one thing they'd like their friend to pray about for them right now and throughout this week.
- It should be something that relates to them feeling alone.
- Ask kids to pray a sentence prayer for their friend right now. If they're not comfortable praying aloud, they can pray silently.

What You Say:

“You may have to remind yourself that God is with you. You can do that by praying, which helps you to not feel alone. It also helps to know that OTHER people are praying for you. Don't forget to pray for your friend this week, and also pray for yourself, so that [Bottom Line] when you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.”

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about the felt items and why they made them.