



WEEK FIVE – SEPTEMBER 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *God’s Plan • Genesis 42–45*

Bottom Line: *You can trust God has a plan.*

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: In Genesis 42–45, we conclude Joseph’s story. Now second in command in Egypt, Joseph put his plan into action as the famine has spread far and wide. Joseph’s brothers end up making the trek down to Egypt, and sure enough they ended up right in front of Joseph. After some back and forth for several weeks, Joseph can’t stand it any longer. He revealed who he was to his brothers and offered them forgiveness for everything that had happened.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Ask kids to share about certain plans their families follow—for meals, for packing the car, for getting ready for school or bed, etc.
- Let them compare plans and see how different families do different things.

2. What Is It?

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

What You Need: Orange paper strips, brown paper pieces, glue sticks

What You Do:

- Give each kid four orange paper strips and one brown paper piece.
- Set out the glue sticks.
- Tell kids you are going to give them instructions to make a craft, but you are not going to tell them what you're making.
 - They just have to trust that you have a plan.
 - If they ask, don't tell them.
 - They can guess amongst themselves, but don't tell them if they're right or wrong.
- Instructions:
 - Place two orange strips like they're a plus sign, and glue them together where they overlap in the middle.
 - Place another orange strip across the middle, so it evenly crosses the other strips, and glue it down in the middle. (Just the middle; don't glue the entire strip down.)
 - Place the final orange strip in the remaining "empty" spot, and glue it down.
 - The orange strips should now look like the spokes of a wheel.
 - Take both ends of one strip, bend them upward and over until they meet in a circle and the ends overlap a little, and glue the ends together.
 - Repeat the previous step with the other three strips.
 - Bend the brown piece in half to make a 90-degree angle, and glue one end to the top of the orange ball.

What You Say:

“You were a little frustrated that you didn’t know my plan for what you were making, weren’t you? I would have been, too. But I’m glad you trusted that I had a plan, and you did what I asked you to do. Now that we’re done, do you know what it is? (Pause.) Yes! It’s a pumpkin.

[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear about someone else who has a plan that we don’t always know about.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *You can trust God has a plan. It’s often hard to see how God is working in a certain situation while you’re going through it. As we get older, we see that story that God was writing with our life. Kids are just starting this journey of faith, we pray that they’ll discover that God has a plan and will trust them as they learn what that is.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Retell It Your Way**[Bible Story Review]**

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

What You Need: Paper, markers, pens, scissors, tape, Bibles

What You Do:

- Set out the supplies so all kids can reach them.
- Tell kids they can each choose a way they want to retell the Bible story that they can later share with their families. They can:
 - Write a news article or blog post
 - Create a comic strip
 - Make finger puppets
 - Write a song or poem
- If some kids finish before others, let them practice retelling the story to each other using their creations.

What You Say:

“Joseph trusted his brothers, but they threw him in a well, talked about killing him, sold him to some traders, and then told their father Joseph was killed by a wild animal. And they thought

they had gotten away with it. But God had a bigger plan in mind. Joseph would never have become a leader of Egypt if God hadn't helped him interpret Pharaoh's dreams, which he never would have done if he hadn't met Pharaoh's cupbearer, who he never would have met if he hadn't been thrown into jail, where he wouldn't have been if he hadn't been in Egypt. And the only reason Joseph was in Egypt is that his brothers sold him into slavery.

“When Joseph's brothers came to him in Egypt all those years later, he said this: You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good. He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives (Genesis 50:20 NIV). God had an amazing plan all along, though nobody would have been able to see it until it all happened.

*“Sometimes we have to wait a long time to know why something happened—what God's plan was. And sometimes we'll never know why. But what we CAN know is that God ALWAYS has a plan. When you think you're alone, [Bottom Line] **you can trust God has a plan.** When life doesn't make sense, [Bottom Line] **you can trust God has a plan.** When the pressure is on, [Bottom Line] **you can trust God has a plan.** God is completely, 100 percent trustworthy!”*

2. The Big Plan

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Paper; pencils

What You Do:

- Divide kids into three groups.
- Each group will come up with a plan for a camping trip: where they're going, what they'll take, how they'll get there, who will go with them, what they'll see when they get there, etc.
- Let groups briefly share their plan with another group.

What You Say:

“You each had a different plan, and often, God has a different plan than we do. And we can trust that His plan is always better than ours is, even when it doesn't always seem like it. When everything seems to be falling apart, God has a plan. When your parents get divorced, God has a plan. When your grandma dies, God has a plan. When you can't get along with your friends or your siblings, God has a plan. What are some other situations where things don't make sense? (Allow a few moments for kids to respond.) [Bottom Line] You can trust God has a plan.”

[Make It Personal] *(Tell kids about a time in your life when everything seemed to be spiraling out of control, but you chose to trust that God had a plan instead of spiraling out of control as well. If you can now see what God's plan was, share that with the kids. If you*

have no clue what the plan was and/or if you're still going through it, share that with the kids, and tell them how you're choosing to trust His plan even though you can't see it right now.)

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Ask kids to quickly tell you what happened in each Bible story this month:
 - Week One: Jacob's dream (Genesis 25:19–34; 27, 28:10–22)
 - Week Two: Joseph sold by his brothers (Genesis 37, 39:1–2)
 - Week Three: Joseph in jail (Genesis 40)
 - Week Four: Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41)
 - Week Five: Joseph forgives his brothers (Genesis 42–45)
- Remind kids of how God was working through all of it to carry out His plan for Joseph and his brothers, and it was also all part of the bigger story of Jesus in the Bible.
- Close with a prayer like the one below.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for being so awesome and amazing that You have the ability to be in control of everything. Thank You for the plan You had for Joseph, thank You for the plan you have for each of our lives, and thank You for Your biggest plan to bring Jesus to earth to live and to die for our sins so that we can live with You forever. In Jesus' name, amen.

*“Remember, no matter what you're going through, [Bottom Line] **you can trust God has a plan.**”*

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them their kids created something that will help them retell the Bible story to their family this week. Tell them to encourage their child to do so sometime during the week.

