



## WEEK ONE – SEPTEMBER 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

**Bible Story:** *Dream On* • Genesis 28:10–22; Genesis 25:19–34; 27

**Bottom Line:** *You can trust God no matter what.*

**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:** We start the month with Jacob. We find his story through various passages in Genesis 25, 27, and 28. Jacob might have wondered how God felt about him after swindling his brother’s birthright and blessing out from under him. But in a dream, God reminded Jacob that He loved Jacob and could be trusted. God renewed the covenant that he started with Jacob’s grandfather Abraham. God always keeps his promises.

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## PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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### 1. You Know It

*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:**

- 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
- Lead kids in a series of “If you’re happy and you know it” variations.
  - If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands.
  - If you’re sad and you know it, make a frown.
  - If you’re angry and you know it, stamp your feet.
  - If you’re confused and you know it, shrug your shoulders.
  - If you’re silly and you know it, wiggle, wiggle.
  - (Slower) If you’re tired and you know it, yawn and stretch.
  - (Even more slowly) If you’re peaceful and you know it, breathe in (deep breath in), breathe out (exhale)
- If time allows, invite kids to take turns stating how they feel today and coming up with an action to match.

**What You Say:**

*[Transition] “Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear about something we can do no matter how we feel!”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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## LARGE GROUP

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**OVERVIEW:**

**Bottom Line:** *You can trust God no matter what. From being powerful enough to create the universe to being personal enough to love each one of us through Jesus, God has proved that He can be trusted in any and every circumstance. We pray that kids will discover they can trust God with whatever they face in their own life.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Stepping Stones

#### [Memory Verse Activity]

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Bibles, “Stepping Stones” Activity Page, music

#### What You Do:

- Help kids look up the verse using the Bible navigation tips below.
  - **Finding verses with kindergartners:** *Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Proverbs at the top of the page as you say “Proverbs” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 3 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 3 for the little 5; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*
  - **Finding verses with 1st graders:** *Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Proverbs in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Proverbs starts with the letters P–R. When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 5 in chapter 3. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*
- Unpack the word trust, emphasizing that trust is putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.
- Arrange the “Stepping Stones” sequentially in a circle. Guide kids to stand outside the circle, with each child by a “stone.”
- Lead kids in a game of non-elimination musical chairs, helping them say the verse each time you pause the music.
- Add variety by guiding kids to “trek” around the stones in different ways: climbing a mountain, walking a narrow path (placing one foot directly in front of the other), or crossing a stream by jumping from stone to stone. They can also say the verse in different ways: loudly, as an echo, or in a whisper.

#### What You Say:

*[Bottom Line] “You can trust God no matter what. God loves you more than you could ever imagine, and He always, always, ALWAYS keeps His promises. He even sent His own Son, Jesus, to die on a cross so that if you believe in Him, you can live forever with God. So remember: Trust in the Lord with all your heart (Proverbs 3:5 NIV). He loves you, He keeps His promises, and He will NEVER leave you. [Bottom Line] You can trust God no matter what!”*

## 2. Trust

### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Prepared art paper; markers/crayons

### What You Do:

- Briefly review Jacob’s dream and the elements of God’s promise:
  - I will give you and your children the land you are lying on. They will be like the dust of the earth that can’t be counted.
  - All nations on earth will be blessed because of you.
  - I am with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go.
  - I will bring you back to this land.
- Unpack the truth that Jacob trusted God’s promise.
- Set out the ladder and markers and encourage kids to draw or write times they can trust God.
  - It might be when they go to school, when they ride the bus, when they’re in their room alone at night, when there’s a thunderstorm, when their brother or sister is being mean to them, or when their mom and dad are fighting.
  - **[Make It Personal] (Draw a child-appropriate time that YOU can trust God, too.)**
    - *NOTE: Be sensitive to difficult or challenging situations kids might draw. If a child portrays anything of concern, calmly ask if they would like to talk more. Don’t hesitate to enlist the help of a church staff member if warranted.*

### What You Say:

*“Jacob learned that the One he could always trust was the same One who had promised to make his grandfather Abraham into a great nation. The same One who created the world and EVERYTHING in it. Who did Jacob learn that he could trust? (Pause.) Yes, God! [Bottom Line] You can trust God no matter what, too. You can trust God when (name some times the kids wrote or drew). So remember: [Bottom Line] You can trust God no matter what.”*

## 3. Pray and Dismiss

**[Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** The ladder from the “Trust” activity

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to gather around the ladder.
- Lead kids to pray silently, asking God to help them trust Him during the times they drew.
- Close using the conversation below as a guide.

**What You Say:**

*“No matter what, you can ALWAYS trust God. So what are some things you can do to show God that you trust Him? (do what He says, believe His promises, love Him) You know, the things you do to trust God are like the steps on a ladder. The more you trust God, the closer you feel to Him—kind of like climbing a ladder. Let’s pray.*

*(Lead kids in silent prayer.)*

*“Dear God, You are good. You are faithful. You are loving. You are kind. And You always, always, always keep your promises. Thank You that we can trust You no matter what. We love You, Lord. Amen.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell their parent today’s Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] You can trust God no matter what. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!***