



WEEK THREE – SEPTEMBER 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Steel Bars* • Genesis 40; Genesis 39

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. 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 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.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- 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.
- Kitten
 - I saw a kitten eating chicken in the kitchen.
- If a Dog Chews Shoes
 - If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?
- Woodchuck
 - How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
- Fuzzy Wuzzy
 - Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear,
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair,
Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't very fuzzy, was he?
- One-One and Two-Two
 - One-One was a racehorse.
Two-Two was one, too.
When One-One won one race,
Two-Two won one, too.

2. Does It Make Sense?

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” (Activity Pages)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Set the “Does It Make Sense?” Activity Page where kids can see it.
- Set the “What and Where Cards” face down in two piles: “What” cards to the kids’ left and “Where” cards to the kids’ right.

- Invite kids to take turns taking one card from each stack 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] **Let’s go to Large Group where we’ll hear about a time someone was in a place that didn’t make sense to him, either.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

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 kids face, they’ll trust that God is in control and they can trust Him to get through it.*

SMALL GROUP

1. God is with You

[Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: “God IS with You” Activity Pages; markers/crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child an activity page.
- Guide kids to point to the first picture (David and Goliath) and tell what’s happening.
- 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. He 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 marker or 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 pet that died or is very sick.)
- ***[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 your pet is lost. 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.**”*

2. I'm So Dizzy

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible marked at Proverbs 3; pool noodle; “Bible Verse Cards” (Activity Page)

What You Do:

- Help kids get in teams of three or four, and guide them to line up at one end of your small group space.
- At the other end, put a bat on the floor opposite each team. Just beyond the bat, set the “Bible Verse Cards” in random order.
- Lead the kids in a “Dizzy Izzy” relay game.

- To play, the first child runs to the bat, sets one end on the floor, puts her forehead on the other end, and runs around the bat three times—all the while keeping the bat touching the floor and her forehead touching the bat.
- She then moves to the Bible verse phrases, picks one up, returns to the bat, runs around the bat five times, and then dizzily runs back to her team to tag the next child in line.
- *HINT: Kids waiting their turn can cheer on their teammates by chanting “one, two, three” and “one, two, three, four, five” as kids spin around the bat.*
- Be sure to provide as much coaching (and dizziness assistance!) as necessary during the game.
- When teams retrieve all their cards, guide them to work together to put the verse in order.
- When every team is finished, guide kids to point to each word as you say the verse aloud together.

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 we should trust God the MOST.

“Because when things don’t make sense to you, they make sense to God. He knows EVERYTHING. And not only that, God loves you and He’s not going to let you go through bad times alone. That’s why God doesn’t want you to depend or rely on what YOU understand. Instead, He wants you to depend and rely on HIM. He wants you to trust Him with all your heart.

*“So the one thing to remember today is this: [Bottom Line] **when life doesn’t make sense, you can trust God is with you.** He loves you, and He will never, ever leave you.”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible marked at Zephaniah 3

What You Do:

- Invite a child to open the Bible where marked.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to pray a blessing over the kids.

What You Say:

“There will be times when bad or sad things will happen. Joseph was put in jail even though he hadn’t done anything wrong. And Jesus, God’s only Son, died on a cross even though He never did anything wrong His WHOLE LIFE!

“We won’t always know why bad or sad things happen. Parents get divorced. People get sick. Pets get lost. And friends move away. Sometimes life just doesn’t make sense. But here’s what I do know: [Bottom Line] When life doesn’t make sense, you can trust God is with you. He loves you and will never leave you. Let’s pray.

(Read the Scripture below and then pray a closing prayer over your group.)

“The Lord your God is with you. He is the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you. In his love he will no longer punish you. Instead, he will sing for joy because of you (Zephaniah 3:17 NIV).

“Thank You, Lord, for Your never-ending love. Thank You that You are ALWAYS with us and that we can trust You no matter what. We love You, Lord. Amen.”

***As adults arrive to pick up, start today’s Bottom Line and encourage kids to finish it:
[Bottom Line] When life doesn’t make sense, you can trust God . . . (is with you).***