



WEEK ONE – SEPTEMBER 2019 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *What makes God trustworthy?*

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.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Just For Fun

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

What You Need: Paper luggage tags; pens/markers

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 Snack Shack
- Hand out name tags and pens.
- Have preteens write their names and draw logos they love.
- Have everyone share why they chose their logos. Share in a group.

What You Say:

“Let’s head to Large Group to hear about who you can trust to have your back all the time.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What makes God trustworthy? As preteens are starting the process of making their faith personal, they’re starting to wonder why they can put their faith in God. How they answer this question can be foundational to that process. We pray they’ll discover all the reasons why God can be trusted no matter what.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Signs labeled “Totally Trust” and “No Way”

What You Do:

- Gather kids in the center of the room.
- Identify one space as “Totally Trust” and an opposite space as “No Way.” For example, opposite walls or two chairs on opposite sides of the room. Tape the signs to the designated side.
- Explain you will read a statement and kids decide if they would trust the something or someone described in the statement.
- Instruct kids if they would trust “IT” to run to the “Totally Trust” wall; if they wouldn’t trust “IT” they run to the “No Way” wall.
- Once kids pick a wall, encourage them to share why they would or wouldn’t trust “IT.”
- Potential “Would you trust IT” Statements:
 - Would you trust a rickety ladder you had to use to cross over a raging river?
 - What about if you saw people successfully crossing the rickety ladder—would you trust crossing on the ladder then?
 - Would you trust a solid bridge to use to cross over a raging river?
 - You told your friend something private and they told someone else. Would you trust them again with something private?
 - Would you trust a person who you’ve never heard say something bad about someone else?
 - Think of someone you depend on, like a parent, grandparent, favorite babysitter, etc. Would you trust them?
 - Would you trust someone who keeps their promises?
 - Would you trust someone who keeps MOST of their promises?
- If there is interest, give kids an opportunity to make up a “Would You Trust IT” statement and let the group respond.
 - *Pro-Tip: Be prepared to discuss situations where you may trust someone with one thing, but you don’t “totally trust” them. For example: You might trust a friend who keeps his promises, but you can’t say you would “Totally Trust” him to keep an embarrassing story just between the two of you. However, you can’t say “no way” I would never trust that person. Your level of trust is somewhere in between. Consider giving kids the option to rate their level of trust for various situations by suggesting they sit in between the “Totally Trust” and the “No Way” spaces, depending on the level of trust they might have.*

2. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Story Cards” Activity Page, tape,

What You Do:

- Shuffle the “Story Cards.”

- Without showing kids the cards, tape a card on each kid’s back.
- Instruct the group to stand in a line so the story cards in are in the correct order. The catch is that they cannot talk while figuring out the order.
- Once kids think they have the correct order, read the cards out loud.
- Allow kids to change spots to make corrections to the story line if necessary.
- To review the story in more detail, consider asking the following questions for each “Story Card” read:
 - Card 1: God made a promise to Abraham. (What was God’s promise?)
 - Card 2: Abraham had a son Isaac. Isaac and Rebekah had twins: Esau and Jacob. (Describe Esau. Describe Jacob.)
 - Card 3: Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for some of Jacob’s stew. (What is a birthright? Why was it a big deal that Esau gave away his birthright? What did this mean for Jacob and Esau’s future?)
 - Card 4: Jacob tricked Isaac into giving Jacob a special blessing instead of giving it to Esau. (How did Jacob trick Isaac?)
 - Card 5: Esau was mad and plotted revenge against Jacob. (Why was Esau mad? Is Jacob someone you would “Totally Trust,” “No Way,” or somewhere in between? Why?)
 - Card 6: Jacob ran away and had a dream about God. (What was Jacob’s dream? What promise did God give in Jacob’s dream? How did God keep His promise to Jacob?)
 - Card 7: Jacob used a stone to mark the place where he had the dream and made a promise to God. (What was Jacob’s promise?)
 - Card 8: Jesus was born and gave His life to pay for the sins of the whole world. (Why is Jesus part of this story?)
- Ask:
 - How does this story show us God’s trustworthiness? How did God have Jacob’s back in the story today?
 - Can you give an example of someone who had your back? What does it look like for God to have your back?

3. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Think of someone you trust. Why do you trust that person?
 - What makes God trustworthy?

- What if God doesn't answer your prayers the way you want—why can you still trust Him?
- What does the story of Jacob have to do with Jesus? Why is this story important?

4. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, balls, timer on mobile device, paper, pencil

What You Do:

- As a group, look up Proverbs 3:5 and read it out loud.
- Gather kids in a circle.
- Explain the group will play a memorization game.
- To play:
 - Kids will gently toss a ball to someone else in the group. Before they toss the ball, they say a word of the memory verse.
 - The challenge is to toss the ball so everyone in the circle touches the ball before completing the verse.
 - You cannot toss the ball to someone directly next to you.
- Play several rounds.
 - Round 1: Do the first part of the verse: Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Challenge kids to see how fast they can complete the verse. Record the fastest time.
 - Round 2: Do the second part of the verse: Do not depend on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5. Again, challenge kids to see how fast they can complete the verse. Record the fastest time.
 - Round 3: Add the fastest times from Round 1 and 2 together and challenge kids to say the entire verse in that amount of time.
- Close with prayer.

As adults arrive to pick up, don't forget to hand out this month's content overview to each parent!