



WEEK TWO – SEPTEMBER 2019 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *What does it look like to trust God?*

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 ACTIVITY

1. Just For Fun

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

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
- Partner up with your fellow grade/gender SG (i.e. all 5th Grade Girls)
- Gather your groups together.
- Explain that you're going to play a game called "Clumps"
 - Call out a number.
 - Kids must quickly form groups, or clumps, of that number. For example, if you call "three," the kids must join together to form groups of three
 - Anyone not in a group is out of the game.
 - Allow kids who are out to call the next number.
 - The game continues until there are only two kids left and they are declared the winners.

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:

Key Question: *What does it look like to trust God? Once they know they can trust God, preteens might need help understanding what it means to trust God in different situations. We pray they'll learn some practical ways they can trust God at home, school, and wherever life might take them.*

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: Boxes; markers

What You Do:

- Give preteens a box and markers.
- As a group, brainstorm some times you might feel alone.
- Encourage preteens to write an example on each side of the box. Examples could include:
 - When you are nervous or sad
 - When you have to try something new, or go to a new place or meet new people
 - At night or in the dark
 - When you are scared or lost
 - When people are mean to you

2. 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:
 - How do we know God is with us when we are alone?
 - What do you do to remember to trust God?
 - (To prompt conversation, be prepared to share a time you felt alone and what you did to remember to trust God.)
 - What does it look like when you trust God when you are scared? Or when you are alone?
 - What does it tell others about who God is when you trust God no matter what?

3. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Digital Bibles or Bibles with concordances, boxes from the “Take a Snapshot” Activity, index cards, scissors, markers or pencils

What You Do:

- Provide preteens with digital Bibles or with Bibles with concordances.
- Ask preteens to pick one of the scenarios on their boxes from the “Take a Snapshot” Activity of when they might feel alone.
- Challenge kids to find a verse to remind them to trust God for the scenario they selected.
 - If there is time, challenge preteens to find verses for several of the scenarios on their box.
 - Allow kids to work together.
 - If preteens are overwhelmed with search results, guide them to narrow their search to the New Testament or the Book of Psalms.
- Give preteens index cards and markers to record the verses they find helpful.
- Allow the group to share their verses with each other.
- Ask preteens:
 - Why they selected the verses they did?
 - Did anyone select the same verse for different scenarios?
 - Why is it important to read, know, and memorize God’s Word?
- Tell preteens to put their verses in their box. If necessary, preteens can cut the index cards so they fit in their boxes.
- Try to let preteens find and choose their own verses, but if needed, some example words to use for searching verses (NIRV) are listed below:
 - Trust: Psalm 13:5, Psalm 28:7, Psalm 31:14
 - Never leave: Hebrews 13:5, Deuteronomy 31:6
 - Worry: Matthew 6:34, Philippians 4:6
 - Strength: Isaiah 40:31, Philippians 4:13, 2 Thessalonians 3:3
 - Afraid: Psalm 56:3–4, 11

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Boxes from the “Verse to Take with You” Activity

What You Do:

- Select an example from the “Take a Snapshot” Activity of when you might feel alone.
- Encourage kids to draw a slip of paper from their box.
- Ask: How would the verse help you to trust God when you are alone?
- Ask kids to write out a prayer using the verse they selected to praise God for His trustworthiness and to remind themselves of God’s promises.

- Encourage kids when they feel alone or need to talk to God and don't know where to start, to pull out one of the verse cards in their box and to remind themselves God is trustworthy.

What You Say:

“God, You are trustworthy! We can totally trust You no matter what. Your Word reminds us who You are! Your Word reminds us You are faithful. You will never leave us. We are so thankful we can come to You anytime and share whatever is on our mind and whatever is going on in our lives and be confident You hear us! God, You know each one of us! You love each one of us! And we are so grateful You are our God! Amen!”