



WEEK THREE – SEPTEMBER 2019 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *When is it hard 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 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 ACTIVITY

1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

What You Need: Slips of paper, pencils, two containers (one labeled “WHAT IF” and one labeled “THEN”)

What You Do:

- Give preteens two slips of paper and a pencil
- Tell preteens to write the first part of a “What if” statement on a slip of paper and put the slip in the bag labeled “WHAT IF”
- For example, “What if I see a snake in a tree . . .” or “What if I am walking in the rain . . .”
- On another slip of paper, tell preteens to finish the statement starting with the word, “then” and put the slip in the bag labeled “THEN”.
- For example, “. . . then I will scream and run away.” Or “. . . then I will get wet.”
- Encourage preteens to take turns selecting slips of paper from each bag and reading the sentences.

What You Say:

*“Many of our statements, though very funny, simply didn’t make sense. Sometimes events occur or people say things that just don’t make sense to us and we find ourselves asking “what is up with that?” [Transition] **Let’s head to Large Group to hear about something we should do when life just doesn’t make sense.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: ***When is it hard to trust God?** Trusting God can be easy when everything is going your way. But what happens when life doesn’t go your way? When they can start identifying when it’s hard to trust God, kids will be able to create a plan for how they can trust God in those situations*

SMALL GROUP

1. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Question Cards” Activity Page and “Response Cards” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Tell kids they are going to play a Bible review game.
- Establish a starting line.
- Shuffle the “Question Cards”
- To play the game:
 - Kids take turns selecting a “Question Card”
 - Each card contains question. If kids answer correctly, they draw a “Response Card” and follow the directions on the card.
 - Some of the questions may have more than one answer. Allow kids to elaborate on their answers, and if their answers are correct as well, they can draw “Response Cards,” too.
 - To prompt kids, ask does anyone have something to add?
 - Don’t identify the finish line. If kids ask, you can say, “That is a good question. I will have to think about it.”
 - When all the questions have been answered, the person closest to the starting line wins.
- Ask:
 - What about this game made no sense?
 - What about Joseph’s story didn’t make sense or seemed unfair?
 - Why might it be hard for Joseph to trust God?
 - Where was God in our story today?
 - Where is God when things in our life don’t make sense or seem unfair?

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:
 - When is it hard to trust God?
 - How do you think Joseph felt during the dark times in his story?

- It is easy to trust God when things are going good, but what can you do to remember to trust God when life isn't going as we want?
- It is hard to trust someone you don't know. How can you get to know God?

3. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, index cards, markers

What You Do:

- Give kids Bibles and look up Proverbs 3:5 together.
- Read the verse together.
- Ask:
 - What do you think it means by “all your heart”? So, what does it mean to “Trust the LORD with all your heart”?
 - What does it mean to “not depend” on something? For example, if I said, “I am not going to depend on my car to work today,” what do I mean?
 - So, what does “Do not depend on your own understanding” mean?
- Give kids paper and markers.
- Instruct them to write down Proverbs 3:5 on one side of the card and, on the back, write the verse in their own words.
 - Encourage kids to decorate their cards as well and tape them somewhere like on their bathroom mirrors or the headboard of their beds

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Paper, pencils

What You Do:

- Give kids paper and a pencil.
- Explain that sometimes it is hard to remember to trust God, especially when life doesn't make sense.
 - Joseph's life was filled with things that didn't make sense to him and yet God was with Joseph through it all.
 - Jesus had to face a lot of difficult situations.
 - His death on the cross was horrible and painful, yet Jesus trusted God through everything. And now, because of Jesus' trust in God, we can be with God now and forever.

- Instruct kids to write on the top of their paper, “I can trust God even when . . .”
 - Encourage kids to complete the sentence with an example of when it is hard to remember to trust God.
- Instruct kids to write, “Because God is . . .”
- Instruct each kid to pick a letter, set it on his or her paper and write a word starting with the letter he or she drew to finish the sentence.
- Repeat for several letters.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, there are things that make no sense to us, but You know everything! You understand everything! And You alone can use the bad, the confusing, and use it for good. God, we thank You for the story of Joseph and his example how to trust you even things aren’t going well for us. And God, thank You for Jesus and for Jesus’ trust in You in all situations He faced. God, we know we can trust You even when . . . (allow kids to read their examples of when it is hard to trust God) because God you are . . . (allow kids to read their words they wrote about who God is). We love You! Amen!”