



WEEK FOUR – SEPTEMBER 2019 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Under Pressure* ▪ *Genesis 41*

Key Question: *What do you need to trust God with right now?*

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 see how God is faithful to Joseph in Genesis 41. Joseph seemed to continually find himself in situations where he needed to trust God. Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret. It's in this moment the king's cupbearer, who was in prison with Joseph, remembered how Joseph had interpreted his dream. At once, Pharaoh sent for Joseph. He went and with God's help interpreted the dreams and offered a plan for helping Egypt survive the famine that God says is coming. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the entire kingdom.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

What You Need: Paper; markers

What You Do:

- Give kids paper and markers.
- Instruct kids to write “DREAM” vertically on the left edge of their papers.
 - In the middle of the paper, instruct them to write “MAERD,” which is “DREAM” backwards.
 - Make sure kids line up the letters on both sides of the paper. For example: The “D” in “DREAM” is directly across from the “M” IN “MAERD,” the “R” is directly across from the “A” and so on.
- Encourage kids to come up with topics for dreams using the letters on their papers. For example:
 - **D**inosaurs
 - **R**aining
 - **E**xploding
 - **A**rmadillos
 - **M**onsters
 - **M**arching
 - **A**nts
 - **E**ggs
 - **R**acing
 - **D**ancing
- Let kids tell crazy dream stories as they work on their acrostics.

What You Say:

*“There are some crazy dreams in our story today. [Transition] **Let’s head to Large Group to hear what the dreams are and what they have to do with trusting God.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What do you need to trust God with right now? We hope that Small Group can be a place where preteens start to trust their small group leader and each other. Kids will have a chance to talk through situations in their own life where trusting God is important. We pray this is a powerful week for kids.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Multi-colored craft sticks, markers, “Boomerang Directions” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Give kids four craft sticks. (If you have multiple colors of craft sticks, give kids 4 different colors.)
- Encourage kids to write an example on each stick of a tough situation that can put you under pressure.
 - If necessary, give an example: you have to take a really hard science test or you have try-out for the school play.
 - Allow kids to work together to come up with ideas.
- Using the “Boomerang Directions” Activity Page, show kids how to make a boomerang with their craft sticks.
- Allow time for kids throw their boomerangs at a wall or other hard surface and watch them explode.
- Encourage them to write on any additional crafts sticks used an example of tough situations that create pressure.
- Explain the boomerangs explode because the sticks are under pressure. The pressure is released when the boomerang hits a hard surface causing the explosion.
- Ask:
 - What are some things we can do when we are in tough situations and feel under pressure?

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:
 - What are some feelings you may have when you face a tough situation or have to do something very difficult?
 - What is something you can do to stay calm when you start to feel like the pressure is on and things are out of control?

- What do you need to trust God with right now?

3. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Reference Cards” (Activity Page), Bibles, pencils or markers, boomerangs from the “Take a Snapshot” Activity

What You Do:

- Lay the “Reference Cards” in a line six inches from a wall. Place the cards about twelve inches apart.
- Instruct kids to take turns “exploding” their boomerangs on the wall above the “Reference Cards.”
- Direct them to pick up the “Reference Card” closest to one of their craft sticks.
- After kids all have a “Reference Card,” gather kids in a circle.
- Give kids a Bible.
- Instruct kids to look up the Bible verse from the reference on their card and write the verse on the back of their cards.
- Allow kids to share their verses with the group.
- Challenge kids to pick a verse to memorize this week.
- Encourage them to remember their verse when they face tough situations this week or feel under pressure.

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Paper; pencils

What You Do:

- Challenge kids to create an acrostic prayer using the word “TRUST.”
- For example,
 - Trusting You LORD is
 - Really the wise choice. You GOD alone
 - Understand everything. I am so thankful You are with me every
 - Step of the way. You are with me every moment of my life.
 - Thank You for being totally trustworthy!
- Encourage kids to share their prayers with the group.

What You Say:

Close in prayer by inviting and encouraging kids to take turns praying aloud. Remind them that their prayers can be as simple or as involved as they want them to be. Also remind them that your group is a safe place and a great way to get comfortable praying aloud is to pray aloud during Small Group.