



WEEK FIVE – SEPTEMBER 2019 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *God's Plan • Genesis 42–45*

Key Question: *When have you had 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: In Genesis 42–45, we conclude Joseph's story. Now second in command in Egypt, Joseph put his plan into action as the famine has spread far and wide. Joseph's brothers end up making the trek down to Egypt, and sure enough they ended up right in front of Joseph. After some back and forth for several weeks, Joseph can't stand it any longer. He revealed who he was to his brothers and offered them forgiveness for everything that had happened.

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: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Ask kids to share about certain plans their families follow—for meals, for packing the car, for getting ready for school or bed, etc.
- Let them compare plans and see how different families do different things.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *When have you had to trust God? For this week, we want preteens to look back and remember the times when God helped them through difficult situations. We want kids to see that God has been trustworthy in the past and will continue to be trustworthy in the future.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Grid Sheets” Activity Page, “Plan Cards” Activity Page, markers

What You Do:

- Give kids a “Grid Sheet.”
- Allow kids to select a “Plan Card.”
- Tell kids to color in the squares on their grid according to their “Plan Card” to determine what their picture is.
- As they work on their pictures, ask them what they think the picture is going to be.
- Allow kids to share their completed drawings.
- Ask:

- When you started, you didn't know what the final result would be. How many times did you change your mind what you were drawing?

What You Say:

“Just like it was hard to see what your final picture would be, sometimes it is hard to see how things will turn out in life. But no matter what you are going through, you can trust God no matter what. You can trust God to be with you through everything and that God knows the entire picture and you can trust He has a plan.”

2. 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: N/A

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle holding hands.
- Explain the kids are going to play a variation of follow the leader.
 - Select one kid to be the leader.
 - Instruct the leader to let go of one hand and to start walking around the outside of the circle.
 - Everyone follows the leader until the group has formed a tight circle.
 - Once the tight circle is formed, the leader ducks under the arms trying to get out of the circle.
 - Everyone continues to follow the leader.
 - Eventually the group will return to a straight line again but not without some confusion.
- Ask:
 - When you were a tangled mess, it was difficult to see how you would end up. As you think about what we learned about Joseph this month, when did his life seem like a mess? Or when were the circumstances in Joseph's life bad?
 - It was hard to imagine when Joseph was in jail or was a slave he would one day end up second in command to Pharaoh. What was Joseph's job as second in command? (He was put in charge of storing up food for when the famine came)
 - When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to ask for food, how did Joseph test them? Why did Joseph test them? (To test their trustworthiness)
 - Everything Joseph went through was part of God's plan, which Joseph revealed to his brothers. What was God's plan for Joseph through all the tangled mess he experienced? (If needed, read Genesis 50:20)
 - Why is Joseph's story important for us to know?

3. Discussion Questions

[Application Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Have you ever seen a movie that ended differently than you thought it would? Or read a book and were surprised how it ended? How would you have changed the ending?
 - Can you think of an example of when you weren't sure how something would end only to be surprised?
 - Encourage kids to share about a time they had to trust God because they weren't sure how to do something or they weren't sure what was going to happen next. ***[Make it Personal] Be prepared to share an age appropriate example of when you had to trust God.***
 - Is there something you are trusting God with right now?
 - How does the Joseph story help you to remember God has your back and He has a plan for you?

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Butcher Paper; Markers

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Set out the butcher paper in the center of the circle.
- Using the paper, spell out the word "TRUST" in the center of the circle.
- Encourage kids to build on the word "TRUST" like you would in Scrabble or a Crossword puzzle.
 - Kids use alphabet letters to add words to their crossword board. For example, using the "T" in "TRUST" they could form the word "Totally" or using the "R" they could form the word "DREAMS" or "FORGIVES"
 - All the words created should relate to the Joseph story and what kids learned during the month.
 - Depending on your group, you can have multiple puzzles being created simultaneously.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, Thank You for the story of Joseph and for showing us even when life around us doesn’t make sense, You have a plan. You have a plan for each of us and part of Your plan is that we would know Your Son, Jesus. God help us to remember You are always with us. We can trust You with all our heart even when we don’t understand what is going on because You understand everything! Amen!”