



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Camping/hiking gear for the Host
- Pre-selected Small Group Leader
- Camping/hiking gear for the Leader (*optional*)
- Blindfold
- Colored masking or gaffer's tape
- Three or four cuddly-looking stuffed animals
- A few artificial Christmas trees (*optional*)
- Summit sign on poster board ("Summit: [Your Environment's name] Peak, 13,133 feet")
- Bible

#### **Music and Sound Effects (SFX):**

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- SFX: Wild animals
- Bluegrass music (instrumental)

#### **Large Group Visuals:**

- Theme Slide
- Trust Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

- Directions Slide

### **What You Do:**

- Pre-select a Leader who will be up for this challenge. Let him know ahead of time what you need him to do.

## **2. Bible Story**

### **What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Host
- Newsboy costume (or just a newsboy hat) for the Host
- Bible
- Five rolled-up newspapers—one for the Storyteller to hold up, and four for the Host to throw
- Full, unopened bag of tortilla chips
- Empty bag of tortilla chips

### ***Large Group Visuals:***

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Newspaper Slides #1-4

### **What You Do:**

- Find five rolled-up newspapers. These can be any newspapers (i.e. the content doesn't matter), because the Storyteller will be the only one to see them. The kids will see the slides on screen with the headlines for the Bible story.

## **3. Worship**

### **What You Need:**

- Never Gonna Stop
- Wide Open

# Under Pressure

**Bible Story: Under Pressure (Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams) • Genesis 41**

**Bottom Line: When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.**

**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.**

## **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.**

**CG: Theme Slide**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

*Host enters, wearing camping/hiking gear.*

**Opener**

**HOST: "Hey, hey, everybody! What a great day to be at [your environment's name]! My name is [your name], and I'm super excited about all the fun stuff happening today.**

**"This whole month we're on a trek together. It's an expedition into the unknown—an adventure in trust!**

**CG: Trust Slide**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App**

**"Trust is putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.**

**CG: Theme Slide**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme**

**"I've got a friend who's ready to hit the trail, and he said he's ready to trust all of YOU to get him to his destination. I think that's pretty brave! Let's welcome him up here. It's [Leader's name]!**

*Bring up the pre-selected Small Group Leader.*

**(To the Leader) "[Leader's name], as you can see, we've got a really nice hiking trail marked on the floor here. Your job is to hike it. But you won't exactly be able to SEE it.**

*Hand the blindfold to the Leader.*

**"You'll have to rely on all of US to give you directions!**

*(To audience)* "Instead of saying left and right, forward and backward, I thought we could give [Leader's name] some directions like you'd find on a trail map. I'm talking about north, south, east, and west—like this!

**CG: Directions Slide**

*(To Leader)* "[Leader's name], if we want you to go forward, we'll say 'north.' Backward, we'll say 'south.' 'East' is right and 'west' is left. Got it? We'll leave that image on the screen so everyone can remember the key words. Simple enough, right?

"Oh, wait! I almost forgot to mention the wild animals. [Leader's name], there will be some very dangerous animals on the path that you'll want to avoid.

**SFX: Wild animals**

*Quickly place some cuddly stuffed animals around the path and put your finger to your lips.*

"Okay, let's see if we can get [Leader's name] all the way up the trail to the top of the mountain. *(To Leader)* Don't worry, [Leader's name]—you can trust us! Ready, set, GO!

**SFX: Bluegrass music (instrumental)**

*Help the audience by shouting directions to the Leader while he's trying to travel down the path. Celebrate when he reaches the summit sign at the end.*

*(To Leader)* "[Leader's name], you did it! I mean, WE did it. We got you to the peak! How's the view from up there? *(Pause for response.)* As you can see, you just barely made it past some ferocious wild animals. *(Reference the stuffed animals.)*

*(To audience)* "Let's give [Leader's name] a big hand!

*Dismiss the Leader to his seat.*

"You all can stand up, because it's time for us to sing and worship God together. His way is always the best way!"

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**Announcements**

Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.

HOST: "I'm so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it's your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you and get a high-five! Your group leaders are here almost every week... they're pretty amazing. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. At the core of who we are as a church, we believe that

**JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE!** “I have just a few announcements for you all today... Share any/all announcements.

“One of the things we do each week to help us focus on God is to sing... some of you will know the words to the songs, so we want you to shout and sing them out really loud. If you don’t know the words... they’ll be on the screen for you. Feel free to clap, jump, sing and shout along with us! The best part about this is the message of the song and how good God is! Let’s all stand up and sing together!”

Worship Leaders enter. Host exits

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hello, friends. We’re having such a fun day, and I am pumped to sing with you now.

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

**VIDEO: One Big Story Intro**

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! I’ve got a question for you. *(Hold up a newspaper.)* Have you ever seen one of these? Do you know what it is? *(Pause for responses.)* This is a newspaper! It’s like a paper website you can hold in your hands!

“Newspapers have pictures and headlines and descriptions of events that are happening all around the world. There weren’t any newspapers back in Bible times, but I thought we could pretend and have a little fun as we catch up where we left off with Joseph’s story. Would that be all right with you? Great!

“Oh! Here comes our first delivery!”

*Host enters, dressed as a newsboy. He runs to the middle of the stage, shouts his line, and tosses a newspaper to Storyteller.*

HOST: “Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Joseph’s in prison!”

**CG: Newspaper Slide #1**

*Host runs offstage.*

STORYTELLER: *(Open and pretend to read the newspaper.)* “Wow. Okay. Here’s an article with everything that’s happened to Joseph so far. Let’s see . . . Joseph’s own brothers were so jealous of him that they sold him as a servant. He was taken all the way to Egypt. Joseph did excellent work for his new master, but then he was thrown into prison for something he didn’t even do.

*(Look up.)* “Wow! What a story. So many twists and turns!

*(Pretend to read the newspaper again.)* “Let’s see . . . where was I? Ah, yes. Joseph had been so trustworthy while in prison that the jailer had put him in charge of all the other prisoners. Then, one day, two men came to the

prison with some very strange dreams. With God's help, Joseph told them exactly what their dreams meant. Joseph had asked one of the men—the Pharaoh's drink taster—to remember him and get him out of prison. But the drink taster forgot all about him.

*(Look up.)* “So that's where we find Joseph . . . still trusting God, but still stuck in prison. Would he ever find a way out? I have a feeling that's what's coming up in TODAY's news.”

### **PHAROAH'S HAVING DREAMS!**

*Host runs to the middle of the stage, shouts his line, and tosses a newspaper to Storyteller.*

HOST: “Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Pharaoh's having dreams!”

### **CG: Newspaper Slide #2**

*Host runs offstage.*

STORYTELLER: *(Open and pretend to read the newspaper.)* “Wow. Here's another one! It looks like Pharaoh had some wild dreams, and no one could tell him what they meant.

*(Look up.)* “Pharaoh had two dreams. In the first dream, there were seven very healthy cows, and then seven really sick and skinny cows came and ate the healthy cows. That's . . . interesting!

“In the second dream, there were seven strong and healthy heads of grain, and then they were eaten up by seven thin and dried-up heads of grain.

*(Reference the newspaper)* “Two very strange dreams. But what did they mean? Pharaoh was pretty frustrated, because nobody could tell him what his dreams were about.

“But THEN—get this—guess who finally remembered Joseph. *(Pause for response.)* Right. Pharaoh's drink taster! He remembered how Joseph had explained HIS dream back when he was in prison. He told Pharaoh that Joseph was able to explain the meaning of dreams.

“So Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Joseph shaved and changed his clothes. Then he went in front of Pharaoh, the most powerful man in the whole land. Here's what they said to each other. I just happen to have it here in the Bible.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 41:15-16 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I had a dream. No one can tell me what it means. But I've heard that when you hear a dream you can explain it.’ ‘I can't do it,’ Joseph replied to Pharaoh. ‘But God will give Pharaoh the answer he wants.’”*

### **JOSEPH SAVES THE DAY!**

*Host runs to the middle of the stage, shouts his line, and tosses a newspaper to Storyteller.*

HOST: "Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Joseph saves the day!"

**CG: Newspaper Slide #3**

*Host runs offstage.*

STORYTELLER: *(Open and pretend to read the newspaper.)* "Wow. Another new edition hot off the presses.

*(Reference the newspaper.)* "God had given Joseph the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams! Both of the dreams meant the same thing. There would be seven years with plenty of food in Egypt. But after that, seven more years would come when there wouldn't be enough food. People would be hungry all throughout the land.

"Joseph suggested that Pharaoh should choose a wise man and put him in charge of gathering food while there was lots of it. That way the man in charge could save it up for later when there WASN'T any food. Then the people wouldn't go hungry!

*(Glance at the newspaper.)* "Whoa! You're never going to believe Pharaoh's response! Pharaoh told the people that he was sure the Spirit of God was in Joseph. Pharaoh was so impressed that he . . .

*Flip the newspaper over excitedly as if the rest of the story is on another page.*

". . . put Joseph in charge of the entire land of Egypt!

"You know, I've got a feeling there might be one more special edition about Joseph."

**JOSEPH GATHERS EXTRA FOOD!**

*Host runs to the middle of the stage, shouts his line, and tosses a newspaper to Storyteller.*

HOST: "Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Joseph gathers extra food!"

**CG: Newspaper Slide #4**

*Host runs offstage.*

STORYTELLER: *(Open and pretend to read the newspaper.)* "Wow! It really happened! Pharaoh put Joseph in charge, and Joseph traveled all over the land to gather extra food. Just like Joseph had said, the land grew amazing, beautiful crops for seven years.

*Open the full bag of tortilla chips. Take a chip out and eat it.*

"Mmmmm. Crunchy.

"But the following year, hardly anything grew.

***Set down the full bag of chips. Pick up the empty chip bag and turn***

***it upside down.***

**“The people cried out to Pharaoh because they were hungry and they needed food. He said: *Go to Joseph (Genesis 41:55 NIV)*. The people of Egypt all turned to Joseph, and he provided food for them from the grain he had stored up for the past seven years.”**

***Set down the empty chip bag. Pick up the full bag and hold up a***

***chip.***

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER: “It wasn’t just the Egyptians who had enough to eat because of Joseph. People from other countries who were hungry heard the news (*hold up the newspaper*) about the grain in Egypt. They came to Egypt to buy grain so they could stay alive.**

***Hold up all the newspapers.***

**“It’s pretty amazing to think about Joseph’s whole story. He had been through so much, but he trusted God every step of the way. And here, when the pressure was on, God gave him the courage and wisdom to explain Pharaoh’s dreams. The Egyptians and many others were able to survive during those seven years when they couldn’t grow any food.**

**“Here’s what we need to remember.**

***CG: Bottom Line Slide***

***[Bottom Line]*** “When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.

**“I bet you’ve felt some pressure before. I know I have. Being under pressure means when we have to do something difficult, like we’re up against a time limit, or people are counting on us to do something important. But even when we’re feeling pressure like that, we’re never alone. God is with us, just like He was with Joseph. He’s always there to help us.**

**“Let’s talk to God now and ask Him to help us when the pressure is on.”**

***CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide***

**Pray**

**STORYTELLER: “Dear God, it’s amazing to hear about how You were with Joseph all throughout his life. You were with him when his brothers threw him into a well. You were with him when he was thrown into prison for something he didn’t do. And You were with him when he got the chance to tell Pharaoh what his dreams meant. Help us to trust You like he did and to remember that You’ll always be with us, too. Help us to trust You when the pressure’s on. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”**

***Host enters as Storyteller exits.***

**Closer**



HOST: “Wow—I’m glad Joseph finally got some really GOOD news! But that doesn’t mean what he did was easy. He was under a lot of pressure.

“Really, it seemed like Joseph was ALWAYS under pressure. He was sold into slavery by his own brothers, taken away from his home, and even thrown into jail.

**CG: Today’s Story Image**

*Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.*

“And the next thing you know, he was standing before Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, who wanted him to interpret some dreams.

“But Joseph knew something really important. He knew that God was with him. That had never changed, through all the things he had to face in life.

**CG: Timeline**

*(Hold up Bible.)* “There are plenty of times in the Bible when God was there for people who were facing a lot of pressure. God was there for Moses when he led the people of God through the Red Sea. God was there for David when he faced a terrible giant who was threatening God’s people. God was there for the disciples when they went out to tell the whole world about Jesus—even if it meant facing a lot of danger. God showed us that he’s ALWAYS there for us when He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

“Remember this: *[Bottom Line]* When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.

**CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide**

“That reminds me of our memory verse, Proverbs 3:5. Do you remember it? Let’s say it together.

**CG: Memory Verse Slide**

KIDS and HOST: “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding*” (Proverbs 3:5 NIV).

HOST: “We can trust God with everything we’ve got. We can trust Him when the pressure’s on. *[Basic Truth]* We can trust Him no matter what!

“You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about trusting God. Have fun!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.**

**CG: Theme Slide**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**