



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Big Picture

Joseph Forgives His Brothers
Genesis 41–45

HOST SUPPLIES

- "How to Climb a Mountain" Sheet (printed from the LG Assets PDF)
- Clipboard
- Pen
- Host's phone
- "Week 2 Timeline Image" printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

STORY SUPPLIES

- Host
- Several kid volunteers and one adult leader
- Bible
- Prop/costume box, containing:
 - Plain robe (for Joseph)
 - Baseball cap with a "J" on it
 - Crown with a "P" on it
 - Scepter
 - Several stalks of artificial wheat
 - Fake gray beard

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Better Than the Best Thing" from *Turn It Up* and "The Power" from *Everything to Me*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: There's a Bigger Story (*k-1st grade*),
Forgiveness Slate (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Application Activity: Grit (*k-1st grade*), God Has a Plan (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Memory Verse Activity: Upside Down (*k-1st grade*),
Gather the Crop (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

CLIFFHANGER

THE STORY ISN'T OVER



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Big Picture

Joseph Forgives His Brothers
Genesis 41–45

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Hold on because there's
a bigger story.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let us not become tired of
doing good. At the right time
we will gather a crop if we
don't give up."
Galatians 6:9, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Grit—Refusing to give up
when life gets hard

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:

Host enters as worship team exits.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everybody! I'm so excited to see you here today, because we're finding out how God can help us live with GRIT.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Grit is refusing to give up when life gets hard.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"Life is full of ups and downs. You can probably think back over the past few days and remember things that went really well and things that DIDN'T go so well.

Give a couple of quick, kid-appropriate examples of ups and downs that you recently experienced yourself.

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25 MINUTES

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"The important thing to remember is that God is with you through ALL of those ups and downs. God can help you hold on and keep going!

"It's kind of like when you're trying to climb a big, tall mountain, and all you can see ahead of you is a super-steep cliff. (*Look up and put your hand over your eyes.*) A mountain climber has to have the grit to keep going—even when the route ahead is super-challenging!

"To start off our time today, I thought it would be fun if we wrote a silly story together by coming up with our own random words. Our story is called 'How to Climb a Mountain.'

"In just a minute, you'll huddle up with your small group and come up with TWO words—a noun and a verb. A noun is a person, place, or thing, and a verb is an action word. Your Small Group Leader can help you think of some ideas. Work together and come up with your BEST noun and verb, okay? You have 30 seconds. Ready? Go!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30-SECOND VERSION)

If you're not using a screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds. After time is up . . .

"Okay, does every group have one noun and one verb? (*Pause for response.*) Great! Let's put them in the story.

Point to each group to hear their nouns and verbs. As you do this, write each group's noun and verb in the blanks in the printed story. Change the verb tenses and make the nouns singular or plural as needed.

Note: There are blanks for ten nouns and ten verbs in the story. If you have fewer than ten groups, you can have some groups come up with multiple nouns and/or verbs. Or you could have others provide words, like Worship Leaders. If you have more than ten groups, you can have some groups come up with only one noun or one verb. Figure out in advance how to do this so that you end up with ten nouns and ten verbs.

"All right, friends! Are you ready to hear our finished story? Here we go!

Read the story and laugh a lot together!

"That was so fun. And we're just getting started! Let's all jump up and get ready to sing and dance as we praise God together."

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:



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10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everybody! Listen, I was thinking about today's story, and it's just such an amazing example of grit! I know last week, [Host's name] did an amazing job of acting out the first part of Joseph's story with you. So I thought we could ask [him/her] to help us again."

Host peeks out from backstage.

HOST: "What's that, [Storyteller's name]? Did you say you want me to help again?"

Storyteller nods.

"Woo-hoo! I'm so excited! I'm thinking let's make this EXTRA-dramatic. Tell you what. I'll go gather some props and costumes while you set up the story!"

Host exits.

STORYTELLER: "Perfect! Let's catch up with where we've been in God's Big Story so far. *(Hold up Bible.)*

If you're using a Bible timeline on your wall, you can refer to it as you recap.

"In the beginning, God created the world. But people turned away and broke their relationship with God. Still, God had a plan to make things right again. God spoke to a man named Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. One of Abraham's great-grandkids was named Joseph.

"Joseph was his dad's favorite son, and his brothers were very jealous of him. So they threw Joseph in a well, then sold him to some traders who were headed to Egypt. When Joseph made it to Egypt, things were going pretty well, until he was thrown in prison for something he didn't even do. But God was with Joseph, even in prison."

Host enters, carrying the box of props and costumes.

HOST: "Okay, [Storyteller's name], I think I'm ready! But I won't be acting as Joseph today. I'll be directing. *(to audience)* And I'm looking for a few actors who would like to come on stage and act as the different people in the story. Don't worry, you won't have to say any lines, just use your arms and your facial expressions to act-out what's happening. Who would like to play Joseph?"

Host chooses a kid with his hand raised. Host gives him a plain robe and the baseball cap with the "J" on it.

(to the kid) "Yes, looking good, Joseph! Here you are . . . in prison." *(Motion to the screen.)*

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY BACKGROUND #1 (PRISON)



PRELUDE

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

STRANGE DREAMS**STORYTELLER:** "Perfect! Thanks, [Host's name]."

(to audience) "You might remember that God helped Joseph so that he was able to explain the meaning of some strange dreams. During his time in prison, Joseph had explained the meaning of a dream for the pharaoh's drink taster. (to 'Joseph') Good job, Joseph. (Give him a high-five.)"

(to audience) "Joseph had asked this man to talk to the pharaoh and see if he could help get Joseph out of prison. But unfortunately, the drink taster completely forgot about Joseph . . . until two WHOLE YEARS later! (to Joseph) Okay, Joseph, let's see you wait there for two years. (Wait a few seconds.) Good job."

(to Host) "[Host's name], I think it might be time to add another actor up on stage."

HOST: "Great idea! (to audience) Who would like to play the ruler of the land, Pharaoh?"

Host chooses a kid with his hand raised. Host gives him the scepter and the crown with the "P" on it.

"Oh—and we need a scene change, too. Let's move to Pharaoh's palace!" (Motion to the screen.)

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY BACKGROUND #2 (PALACE)**STORYTELLER:** "Excellent! One day, the ruler of the land—the pharaoh—had some strange dreams that he couldn't explain."

Host guides "Pharaoh" to act like he's sleeping. (He can do this wordlessly by miming what he wants the kid to do.)

"The drink taster heard about this, and he was like, 'OH YEAH! There was this guy in prison named Joseph! I bet HE could tell you what your dreams are about!'"

"So the pharaoh called for Joseph!"

Host motions to the screen.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY BACKGROUND #1 (PRISON)

"He had Joseph brought to the palace."

Host motions to the screen.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY BACKGROUND #2 (PALACE)

"Pharaoh then explained his dreams to Joseph."



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Host takes a knee in front of "Pharaoh" so that he can cue the motions for the kid to mimic while the Storyteller explains the dreams. Host should do bigger-than-life motions for the cows, grain, etc.

"In one dream, there were seven fat, heathy cows eating grass by the Nile River. Then seven sickly and skinny cows came up and ATE them!

"In another dream, there was a stalk of grain with seven heathy heads of grain growing on it. Then seven dried-up heads of grain grew and ATE the healthy grain.

"I told you, these were strange dreams! But with God's help, Joseph was able to tell what they meant.

Walk over to Joseph.

"Joseph said . . .

Open the Bible to Genesis 41:28-30 (NirV) and read. (Host cues the kid to gesture with his arms while the Storyteller reads.)

"God has shown Pharaoh what he's about to do. Seven years with plenty of food are coming to the whole land of Egypt. But seven years when there won't be enough food will follow them. Then everyone will forget about all the food Egypt had. Terrible hunger will destroy the land."

A FAMINE IN THE LAND

STORYTELLER: "This wasn't good news at all. But Joseph had an idea!

Host cues Joseph to raise one finger in the air.

"Joseph told the pharaoh that it would be wise to hire someone to take charge and save extra food in the good years. That way they would have food later when nothing was growing.

"Pharaoh thought this was a great plan. He put Joseph in charge of the whole land of Egypt!

Host cues "Pharaoh" to congratulate Joseph (pat on the back, high-five, etc.).

Host motions to the screen.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY BACKGROUND #3 (COUNTRYSIDE)

"Joseph traveled all over Egypt and helped store up grain during the seven good years.

Host hands the artificial wheat stalks to Joseph.

"When the years of hunger began, Pharaoh sent everyone to Joseph to buy food. And here's the really interesting part. The famine had spread outside of Egypt into Canaan, where Joseph's family lived. Joseph's family members

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25 MINUTES

were hungry and had heard there was grain in Egypt. (Reference the stalks Joseph is holding.) So Joseph's father, Jacob, sent Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy food—well, all of the brothers except the youngest, Benjamin." (Nod to cue the Host.)

HOST: "Let's see . . . Joseph's brothers . . . 'Joe's bros.' We'll need 11 of you.

Host chooses 11 kids to come up and stand in the back of the room.

"Brothers, ten of you are headed to Egypt (to one of the 11 kids), but Benjamin, you can stay here in Canaan.

"The rest of you, let's travel to Egypt. You've GOT to find some food for your family!"

Host cues the ten remaining "brothers" to travel to the stage.

A HAPPY ENDING

STORYTELLER: "The ten older brothers made the journey to Egypt, and they came before Joseph.

Host motions to the screen.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY BACKGROUND #2 (PALACE)

"They bowed to Joseph.

Host cues the ten brothers to bow before Joseph.

"Just like in Joseph's mysterious dreams from so long before.

"Joseph recognized his brothers, but they didn't know who he was. Joseph decided to test them by saying they were spies. He ordered them to leave Simeon behind.

Choose a brother (from the ten) and move him close to Joseph.

"Joseph told his brothers to return home and come back with their younger brother, Benjamin. They did as he said and left for Canaan."

Host motions to the screen.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY BACKGROUND #3 (COUNTRYSIDE)

Host quickly moves to the back of the room (near where "Benjamin" is). Host finds a nearby Small Group Leader and gives him the fake gray beard to put on.

HOST: "All right, brothers, do you see your dad, Jacob, back here? (to the leader with the beard) Give us a wave, Jacob. ('Jacob' waves.)

"Come on home to see your dad and Benjamin."

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Host cues the brothers (except Simeon) to travel to the back of the room, where "Jacob" and "Benjamin" are.

STORYTELLER: "Joseph had the brothers' sacks filled with grain as he sent them away. Along the way, the brothers discovered that all their money had been returned. When they arrived home, they showed Jacob the grain and told him everything that had happened.

"At first, Jacob refused to let Benjamin go.

Put your hand over your eyes as you look at the back of the room. Host cues the leader ("Jacob") to hold on to "Benjamin," dramatically.

"But soon, all the grain the brothers had brought from Egypt was gone. Jacob sent them all back—this time with Benjamin—to buy more. He told them to take gifts, and twice the money, so the Egyptians wouldn't be mad. The brothers all traveled to Egypt again.

Host motions to the screen.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY BACKGROUND #2 (PALACE)

"When they arrived, Joseph ordered that the brothers be taken to his own house, where a special meal was being prepared. When Joseph heard that his father was still alive and he saw Benjamin, he was so moved that he left the room to cry.

"Then, at last, Joseph told his brothers who he was.

Open the Bible to Genesis 45:4-5 (NirV) and read. (Host cues Joseph, on stage, to act this out by waving his arms dramatically.)

"Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come close to me.' So they did. Then he said, 'I am your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold into Egypt. But don't be upset. And don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me ahead of you to save many lives.'

"Wow! Amazing! Let's give all of our actors a round of applause as they head back to their seats. (to Host) And thank you, [Host's name], for your expert direction."

Host collects the props and costumes from the actors as they go back to their seats. Then Host bows and exits.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Joseph FORGAVE his brothers. He told them to go home and bring their dad, Jacob, and the rest of their families to live in Egypt where they would have enough food. The whole family settled in a place called Goshen, and they had enough to eat through the rest of the famine.

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25 MINUTES

“Joseph’s story teaches us this.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Hold on because there’s a bigger story.

“God had a bigger plan through ALL the ups and downs of Joseph’s life. In the end, God brought Joseph’s whole family back together—and God worked through everything that happened to save many lives.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us have the kind of grit that Joseph did.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, it’s amazing to see how You took care of Joseph. He went through some terrible things in his life, but You were always with him. In the end, it turned out that everything led up to the moment when Joseph forgave and saved his brothers. You always had a good plan for his life, and You have a good plan for our lives, too. Help us remember to trust You always. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “What an amazing story! God had a bigger plan for Joseph than Joseph could have ever imagined for himself. In the end, God made a way for Joseph to be able to save his whole family.

SLIDE: GOD’S BIG STORY TIMELINE SLIDE

SLIDE: WEEK 2 TIMELINE IMAGE

If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.

“It must have been tough for Joseph to hold on in those moments when everything seemed to be going wrong like when his brothers threw him in a pit or he was thrown in prison. But God was with Joseph through it all. Joseph trusted that God had a bigger plan for his life—and God really did!

“When things don’t go the way we want, we can choose to act like Joseph did. We can ask God to give us the grit to hold on and stay strong, even in the face of big challenges.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“We can **hold on because there’s a bigger story.**

“The really cool part is to think about what Joseph’s story led to later. Joseph was part of Abraham’s family, and many, many years later, JESUS would be born as part of Abraham’s family line! We know that God had a big plan for ALL of us, because of what Jesus did for us. Jesus died on the cross and paid the price for our sin so we could be forgiven!

“It might be hard to hold on when things happen that we don’t understand—like if we’re having trouble with a friend or someone we love is very sick. In those moments, it’s important to remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what.** We can hold on and trust that God is still working in our lives. God can see the bigger story, even if we can’t. And God knows how it will all be made right in the end.

“You can head to Small Group now and talk about that with your leader and your friends. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP