

CLIFFHANGER

THE STORY ISN'T OVER



WEEK

ONE

OCTOBER 2022

SMALL GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to spread out around your environment.
- Challenge kids to see how long they can perform certain physical tasks such as standing on one leg, standing on their toes, standing on their toes with both arms stretched to the sky, “walking” on their knees, etc. (The kids can even come up with their own challenges!)
- Use a visual timer to establish a time “goal” for each task—can they hold the pose for 30 seconds? One minute? Longer?

WHAT YOU SAY:

- “Wow! You guys really stuck with it and didn’t give up, even when it got hard! **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about someone who refused to give up even when things got really, REALLY hard. Let’s go to Large Group to learn more.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Down in a Hole

Joseph Sold by Brothers and Joseph in Jail
Genesis 37, 39–40

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

Hold on because God is with you.

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.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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JUST KEEP CLIMBING

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Just Keep Climbing" Activity Page cards and floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into two teams.
- Hand each team a stack of "Just Keep Climbing" Activity pages and some floor tape.
- Explain the steps of the game before beginning.
 - Put the pages in order of what happened in the Bible story.
 - Make a pathway for their team to "climb" across the room by taping the cards to the floor.
 - Use the pages as "climbing holds" for their hands and feet to crawl across the room.
 - Only one kid from each team can "climb" at a time.
 - The first team to get the story in the correct order and get all of their members across is the winner!
- Start the game and encourage the teams as they work.
- Declare a winner.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Some of that was difficult—putting the story in the correct order, taping the pages to the floor, and crawling across the floor. Difficult but not impossible, right? When I look at these papers, I am reminded that just like Joseph, you can **hold on because God is with you.**

"Joseph had to go through some really hard things like being thrown into a pit and sold by his own brothers. He was trapped in slavery, accused of doing something he didn't even do, and put in jail for a really long time. But with God's help, he interpreted the baker's and drink taster's dreams.

"We will have to wait until next week to hear what happened next in Joseph's life, but who here would want ANY of those things to happen to them? (Pause.) How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers threw him in a pit and sold him? Pretty awful, right? (Invite kids to share.) What Joseph went through doesn't seem fair, but we can see from the story of his life that Joseph was able to hold on to the hope that God had a plan."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Down in a Hole

Joseph Sold by Brothers
and Joseph in Jail
Genesis 37, 39–40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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BUILD A MOUNTAIN

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verse Cards" Activity Page, masking tape, and Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Using the Bible navigation tips below, look up Galatians 6:9 and read it together.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Down in a Hole

Joseph Sold by Brothers and Joseph in Jail
Genesis 37, 39–40

Finding verses with a multi-age group: Guide all kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd–3rd grade) to find Galatians in the list under New Testament. When the kid finds Galatians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find Galatians. Ask older elementary kids (4th–5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their Bibles. When they all find Galatians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 6, and give time for all the kids to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers, and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 9 in chapter 6. Then read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers, or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Hold on because God is with you.

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

- On a wall or flat surface, tape the shape of a mountain peak in two different points in your space.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct each team to line up across from their mountain.
- Scatter a set of "Verse Cards" on the floor at the base of each mountain.
- Direct the first kid on each team to run to the mountain, pick up a card, and place it on the mountain where they think it will go in order of the verse, from right to left, on the mountain.
- Instruct each kid to run back and tag the next kid on their team.
- Direct the rest of the kids on each team to either take and place a card OR move a card already on the mountain.
- The first team with all of their cards in verse order, wins.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Grit—Refusing to give up when life gets hard

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This verse reminds you to **hold on because God is with you**. What do you think 'don't get tired of doing good' means? (*Keep doing what's right even if it's difficult.*) When doing the right thing is hard, I'm glad God is with me all the way!

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

"And what do you think 'gather a crop' means? Are we all farmers? (*Invite responses—talk about what it would have meant to the people who heard it in Jesus' day, that when you plant a seed and take care of it day after day, week after week, it produces good fruit.*)

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25 MINUTES

(BUILD A MOUNTAIN, CONTINUED)

"If we keep holding on and doing what's right—over and over again like tending a plant—what kind of 'fruit' or 'crop' will we have at the end? (*Invite responses—strong faith, people we blessed, faithfulness to God, etc.*)

"When you choose to do the right thing over and over and you need some grit, remember a farmer working on his field and taking care of his plants over and over and over. The farmer believes the end result will be worth all the work. We believe that, too. We'll talk more about that this month."

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Down in a Hole

Joseph Sold by Brothers
and Joseph in Jail
Genesis 37, 39-40

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Was God with Joseph when he was in the pit? (Yes!) Was God with Joseph when he was a slave in Potiphar's house? (Yes!) Was God with Joseph when he was in jail? (Yes!) Yes, God was ALWAYS with Joseph! And God is always with YOU, too! God is with you when you have trouble with your brothers or sisters. God is with you when people aren't kind to you. God is with you when you feel alone. God is ALWAYS with you! So remember to **hold on because God is with you**. Let's pray.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Hold on because God is with you.

"Dear God, thank You that You are always, ALWAYS with us. We love You SO much Lord. Thank You for loving us more than we could ever imagine. Amen."

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

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell them today's Bottom Line.
Hold on because God is with you.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Grit—Refusing to give up
when life gets hard

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.