

CLIFFHANGER

THE STORY ISN'T OVER



WEEK

TWO

OCTOBER 2022

SMALL GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids see beyond the immediate future in front of them. Ask that God would show kids there is always a bigger story, no matter what is going on right now. Pray that kids would be able to lean into stories of people from the Bible and their own lives for whom God had a plan to use difficult circumstances for good.

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.

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group and get them settled with their offerings and Bibles.
- As kids arrive, invite them to join a story circle.
- Start off the story by saying:
 - Once upon a time, there was a brave young dinosaur who loved cheeseburgers. His family sent him away to school to learn how to be a dentist, but the town where he studied did not have a single restaurant or store that sold cheeseburgers! He decided to do something about that, so he . . .
- Encourage the next kid in the circle to continue the story. Let the story go around the circle with each person adding more details. Wrap it up at the end if you can!
- Repeat as you have time. Let kids start the stories if they want. You can suggest some themes.
 - An alligator from the swamp goes to visit her cousin crocodile by the ocean
 - A video game character comes to life
 - There's a fight in the refrigerator—some veggies want to be a soup, others a salad
 - The whole world runs out of ketchup and only a brilliant kid scientist knows why

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

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A LONG JOURNEY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "A Long Journey Map" Activity Pages, "A Long Journey Cards" inside prepared bags of corn, and masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape the map on a wall or table where all the kids can see. Point out the key places: Canaan (where Jacob lived), Egypt (where Joseph lived), and the Nile River.
- Divide kids into five teams.
- Hand a bag to each team.
- Challenge them to find the cards in the bag—without spilling any corn—and decipher the riddles.
- The pictures should help them figure out the riddles, but if you have mostly older kids, let them find the cards and then hand them to you to read. Then they can decipher the riddles without the assistance of the pictures.
- Help kids figure out where their cards should go on the map and let them tape the cards in the appropriate locations.
- When all cards are on the map, circle kids up to talk about it.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our map shows where a lot of action takes place before the Bible story we heard today. We know from the rest of the Bible that after today's story, God's plan for all people continued.

"But think about all the planning and everything that God orchestrated for these events! God had been working on this story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for years before it happened. Joseph even told his brothers that God had been working to rescue them from famine even as they plotted against young Joseph back in the pit. God planned for good even though they planned for evil. God had been in charge of the story the whole time.

"In the same way, God is working in your story and has been the whole time. God is always working for all of us to come to know God and follow Jesus to live forever together. That is a HUGE story with a lot of details. Maybe you're facing some details that seem overwhelming. Maybe your story has come to a cliffhanger in the middle. But you don't need to worry. You can **hold on because there's a bigger story.**"

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MADE TO MOVE

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



GATHER THE CROPS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Gather the Crops" Activity Pages and Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Scatter the "Gather the Crops" pieces around the room.
- Help kids look up and read Galatians 6:9 with the Bible navigation tips below.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide 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, lead them to find Galatians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Galatians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Galatians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Galatians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 6.

- Ask if anyone wants to read the verse out loud or if anyone already has it memorized and would like to say it for the group.
- Explain there are 23 "crops" spread out around the room.
- Instruct kids to spread out and each gather two or more crops (depending on how many kids you have) and bring them back to the group.
- Tell kids to work together to put the crops in verse order, using their Bibles for help.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job, everyone. Did you know that crops like wheat don't just spring up overnight on a farm? The farmers have to be patient and diligent when planting, watering, and caring for their crops. 'Crops' is another word for 'plants' or 'produce.' Farmers don't see the plant growing right away. It can take weeks before they even see a little sprout.

"Paul writes in this verse that the good we do can grow good things in our life that we may not see right now but will later. What is something good you can do to help others that you may not immediately see? (*Being kind to someone who isn't kind to you could change that person's heart and help them choose to be kind. If you pick up trash you see on the ground, someone else may see you doing it and decide to pick up trash the next time they see it on the ground.*) We may not immediately see what doing good does, but you can **hold on because there's a bigger story.**"

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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 into a responsive prayer where they finish the Bottom Line

when you stop at different points.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The thing to remember today is to **hold on because there's a bigger story**. Joseph held on through some pretty difficult times, didn't he? (*Hold up a new finger—keeping your thumb tucked into your palm—as you say each of the following.*) He held on when his brothers threw him into a pit. He held on when his brothers sold him into slavery. He held on when he was in jail even though he hadn't done anything wrong. And he held on when he was forgotten.

"But God flipped all of the bad things that happened to Joseph UPSIDE DOWN (*curl your fingers down to your palm and point your thumb out*) and turned them into something GOOD. (*Give a thumbs-up.*) He used EVERYTHING that happened to Joseph to put him in the right place at the right time to save his family. God can turn the bad things in your life upside down, too. So remember to **hold on because there's a bigger story**. Let's pray.

"Dear God, help us remember to **hold on because there's a bigger** (*pause*). When bad things happen, help us remember to **hold on because there's a** (*pause*). When sad things happen, help us remember to **hold on because** (*pause*). When things happen that we don't understand, help us remember to **hold on** (*pause*). No matter what happens, help us always remember to (*lead kids to say entire Bottom Line with you*). We love You, Lord. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell them how to make either dough or ice cream.

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