

Today's Suggested Schedule—August 2025, Week 5

Bible Story: Joseph • *Genesis 37, 39–45*

Bottom Line: You can trust God when things get tough.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)*

Supplies that are NOT included in the activity bags:

Bible Story Review: Joseph's Life Memory Match

Application Activity: Joseph's Faith Circle

☐ soft ball

Memory Verse Activity: Verse Master

☐ floor tape

☐ Bibles

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

☐ paper

☐ coloring supplies

☐ pencils

Pray for your group before they arrive.

Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time.

Thank God for the true story of Joseph, a reminder that even when life feels tough or confusing, God is still at work!

Reflect on a time you went through something tough and couldn't see how God was using it until later. Thank God for being faithful. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you communicate to kids they can trust God no matter what!

Pray that your group would trust God with their big and small struggles.

Pray that they would learn to look for how He is working even when life doesn't go as planned.

1. Bible Story Review- Joseph's Life Memory Match

What You Need:

- ☐ "Joseph's Memory Match" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Divide kids into three groups.
- Shuffle each set of "Joseph's Memory Match" Activity Page cards.
- Give each group a set of cards.
- Instruct each group to spread the cards out face down.
- Explain how to play:
 - The kids will take turns flipping over two cards at a time, trying to find matching pairs.
 - The goal is to match a "bad" event in Joseph's life with the "good" God brought out of it.
 - Kids can use the colored borders to confirm they have a match.
 - Keep playing until all the cards are matched!
- Once all the cards have been matched, gather the group and discuss.

What You Say:

"That was so much fun, and you all did a great job matching up the tough things that happened to Joseph with the good things God brought out of them. Joseph went through some really hard times in his life. But did Joseph ever give up? (*Invite responses.*) No, he didn't! He kept trusting that God was in control. And God took Joseph from prison all the way to the palace, where he helped save thousands of people, including his own family.

"That's why faith is SO important. Faith is trusting in what you *can't* see because of what you *can* see. We can't always see how things will turn out, but we have seen that God is good—in Joseph's story, and in Bible story after Bible story. We've also seen Him be good in our own lives. And when we look at what we know about God, that He is good and He is always working for good, we can trust Him. So **[Bottom Line]** you can trust God when things get tough."

[Make It Personal] (*Share an age-appropriate example of a tough time in your own life when God brought something good out of it. Maybe you felt like nothing was going right, only for God to step in at the last minute to turn it all around. Create a safe space to share, allowing kids to share more about their lives too.*)

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Be patient and allow kids time to process as they match the cards. Walk around and help the any kids who are stuck.

2. Application Activity- Joseph's Faith Circle

What You Need:

- ☐ Soft playground ball

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Hold the ball and say: "Joseph trusted that God was with him, even when he was in prison. We are going to think about some ways we can trust God when things get tough too. I will get us started. When things are tough, I can remember that God loves me."
- Pass the ball to one kid in the circle.
- Instruct the kid who catches the ball to share one way they can trust God when things get tough.
 - *If the kids are stumped, share examples, like: I can remember that God loves me, I can remember God is always with me, I can remember that God is good and He is always working for good, I can remember who God says I am, I can ask the Holy Spirit to help me, I can remember God's promises.*
- For kids who need more support processing, ask simpler questions like:
 - "What's something hard that you can trust God with?"
 - "Can you think of a time when God helped you?"
- Continue passing the ball around the circle until every kid has shared.

What You Say:

"Amazing job, everyone! You did an awesome job thinking about how we can trust God when life gets tough! Joseph did the same thing. Joseph faced so many tough situations—like being betrayed by his brothers, being thrown into a pit, and even going to jail. But no matter what happened, Joseph chose to trust God. He chose to trust that God is good and had good plans for his life. And that helped him get through what he was facing.

"Just like Joseph, **[Bottom Line] you can trust God when things get tough.** Maybe you're facing something difficult at home, school, or with friends. But remind yourself of these truths: God is good and He is always working for good, even if you can't see it. Remind yourself of God's promises, like some of the ones we talked about. Remind yourself that He is always with you, that He loves you, that you are precious to Him. Remembering who God is and what He promises will help you trust Him as you go through the tough thing you're facing.

"In fact, even Jesus, God's Son, had to trust God when He was facing something really hard, like being arrested and dying on the cross. But because Jesus knew God would bring good out of something tough, something amazing would come from it. Jesus paid for sin and broke the curse. Jesus made it possible for us to be in relationship with God forever!"

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Some kids might need extra time to think and process their answers. Be patient and don't rush them. Let another kid have a turn and come back to them later.

3. Memory Verse Activity- Verse Master

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1
- ☐ “Verse Master” Activity Page
- ☐ Floor Tape

What You Do:

- Before you begin, tape the “Verse Master” Activity Page cards around your group space (either on the walls or on the floor).
- Open the Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1.
- Call on a kid to read the verse aloud for the group.
- Repeat the verse several times, and discuss any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Before you begin, point to the words of the verse in order that are taped on the wall.
- Encourage the kids to follow along.
 - *NOTE: This gives visual learners a reference of the verse words.*
- Instruct the kids to separate and choose to stand near one of the words in the Memory Verse.
- Select a kid to be the “Verse Master.”
- Explain the rules:
 - The “Verse Master” is to attempt to take away parts of the Bible verse.
 - The “Verse Master” is to close their eyes, count to ten, and call out one word from the verse.
 - Any kids standing near that word are to be out for that round.
 - *NOTE: Some words are listed multiple times, so there are multiple ways to get out!*
 - Each kid has a chance to stay in the game if they run to the center and recite the Memory Verse.
- Once all the kids are out, play another round if time allows.
- Recite the verse together one last time!

What You Say:

“That was intense! Now that we’ve had some fun, let’s think about the verse we just practiced. Can you say it with me one more time? (*Recite Hebrews 11:1 together.*)

“This verse is all about *faith*—the kind of faith Joseph had when he was facing tough times! Even when he was in prison, separated from his family, and sold by his brothers, Joseph still trusted that God was good and had a good plan for his life. He couldn’t see how things would work out, but he trusted God.

“Keep this verse in your memory so you can be reminded at any time that faith in God doesn’t require seeing—we can have faith, trust in God, even when we can’t see what’s next! We can always have faith because God is good and He has always been good. That’s why **[Bottom Line] you can trust God when things get tough.**”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider the needs of your group. Some kids might be overwhelmed by a fast-paced game. Offer a slower version of the game, where kids can quietly read the verse and not have to rush to the words.

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Coloring Supplies
- ☐ Pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Set out the pencils and coloring supplies.
- Encourage the kids to write or draw about a difficult situation or bad day they've experienced in the past.
- If a kid struggles to think of something, offer examples like:
 - *"Think of a day you felt sad or frustrated, or think of a time when something didn't go as planned, or you felt like giving up."*
- Once they're finished, encourage the kids to think about how God might have used the situation for good.
- Lead the kids in prayer to ask God for help, understanding, and peace in their situation.
- For the situations that haven't been resolved, encourage them to revisit their situation later and see how God answer their prayers.

What You Say:

"God, thank You for always being with us, no matter what. When we are going through hard times, please help us to trust You, like Joseph did! Please help us to know that You will never leave us and You will always help us through. We want to learn to trust and rest in You. Thank You for always being there for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider offering fidget toys during prayer time to assist kids with focus.

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share this month's Memory Verse with them and what it means for them, personally!