

Small Group Leader Guide

Materials Not included in the Activity bags:

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

- pencils

Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You

- Bible
- floor tape

Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

- dry erase boards and markers
- index cards
- 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.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Joseph Genesis 37; 39-45

Key Question

When has something bad turned into something good?

Bottom Line

You can trust God when things get tough.

Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1 NIrV)



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

MADE TO
↓
Imagine

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Pens☐ "Story Sound Effects"
Activity Page☐ "Joseph's Story" Activity
Page

Inclusive Pro-Tips

If a kid prefers not to read aloud, allow them to hold up the sound effect signs for their team as the story is told.

Give the kids time to process and think as you ask the discussion questions.

Some kids focus better when they move! Consider letting the teams act out their part of the story while they read it!

What You Do

- Divide the kids into four teams.
- Give each team one card from the "Joseph's Story" Activity Page and a set of six cards from the "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page.
- Instruct each team to read through their "Joseph's Story" Activity Page card.
- Direct the teams to use the "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page cards to write down six different sounds or short phrases to place in their part of the story wherever they like.
- For example:
 - "Joseph's brothers were angry and jealous of him." (GRR!)
 - "Joseph went to jail for something he did not do." (SLAM!)
 - "Joseph forgave his brothers." (SAY WHAT??)
- Once everyone is finished, invite the team with the first card to read their part of the story using the sound effects as they read.
- Continue until all four parts have been read.
- Ask:
 - What do you think was the toughest thing Joseph went through? Why?
 - Tell us about a tough time God used to accomplish something good.
 - How do difficult situations build our faith? How might they make us doubt?
 - What would you tell someone who's going through a tough time but really wants to trust God?
- Remind kids that even when life is messy and hard, God is still with us! He never leaves us, even when things get tough. God wants us to come to Him when we are going through hard things.

1.

Joseph's father gave him a very special coat. Joseph had 11 brothers who were jealous that he got the coat and their father's attention. It made them even more angry when Joseph told them he had dreams that they would all bow down to him someday.

So, the brothers took Joseph's coat, beat him up, and threw him down a well. When traders came by, the brothers sold Joseph to them, and the traders took him to Egypt. Joseph became a slave to a high-ranking official in Egypt named Potiphar. Joseph decided to do the best he could regardless of his circumstance. He did such a good job, that Potiphar put him in charge!

2.

Potiphar's wife made up lies about Joseph, and because of that, Potiphar threw him in jail. While Joseph was in jail, God helped him interpret two dreams of some fellow inmates: Pharaoh's royal drink tester and baker. Joseph told them what their dreams meant, and he was exactly right.

The royal drink tester was let out of jail and served Pharaoh for two years when suddenly, Pharaoh had a horrible dream. The drink tester remembered Joseph, told the Pharaoh, and Joseph came to the Pharaoh and interpreted his dream.

In the dream, God was telling Pharaoh that there would be plenty of food for seven years, followed by a famine for seven years after that. There would be no food for seven years. Pharaoh was so impressed by Joseph that he put him in charge of getting Egypt ready for the famine. Joseph was now second in command over all of Egypt!

3.

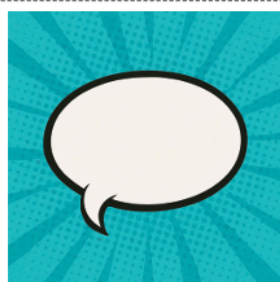
When the food shortage hit, Egypt and every nation around it was struggling. The famine reached all the way to the country where Joseph's father and brothers lived. So, Joseph's brothers traveled to EGYPT to buy food. They had no idea that Joseph was there, or that he was in charge of the food. They visited Joseph twice and never knew it was him.

When Joseph finally told his brothers who he was, they were terrified. In this moment, Joseph did something amazing. He looked at his brothers and forgave them!

4.

Even though Joseph's brothers meant to do him harm, God was using the hard things to accomplish something good. Joseph faced a lot of tough times. His brothers tried to get rid of him, he was sold to work as a slave, and he was thrown into jail for something he didn't do. BUT God had a plan.

The Bible says over and over that that "God was with Joseph." God was with Joseph when he was serving Potiphar, God was with Joseph when he was in prison, and God helped Joseph interpret Pharaoh's dream. God used the hard times Joseph went through to lead him to become second in charge of Egypt and save his family—and Jesus would come from this very same family. God was even using the hard times for our rescue!



Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed

What You Do

ASK

- When has God used something bad in your life to accomplish something good?
- Jesus trusted God's plan (Garden of Gethsemane) even when things were really hard. What can you do to remember you can trust God?
- What does it tell others about who God is when we trust God no matter what?



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Be sensitive to kids needing extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Foil Balls
- ☐ Floor Tape



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Some kids might need extra time to think before answering the questions. Be patient and allow them to process!

For any kids who would prefer not to play the game, let them be the scorekeeper.

What You Do

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Direct them to look up Romans 8:28, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
- Say the verse together several times.
- Point out any unfamiliar words and explain them.
- Use the floor tape to create a line down the middle of your space.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Direct each team to stand on opposite sides of the tape line.
- Toss an equal amount of foil balls on both sides of the tape line.
- Explain the game:
 - At your signal, teams are to roll foil balls across the line into the other team's space.
 - The goal is to have the fewest foil balls on your team's side when the game stops.
 - You will stop the game at a random point. (You can turn around so it's obvious you can't see which side has more foil balls on it when you end the round.)
 - The team with the most foil balls is to recite Romans 8:28. Assist the kids as needed if they don't remember all the words.
- Repeat several rounds.
- Read Romans 8:28 twice before allowing kids to respond to the following questions.
- What do you think God is telling us in Romans 8:28?
- When might it be hard to believe the promise of Romans 8:28?
- Does this verse mean that everything eventually works out the way we want it to? Explain.
- Help kids understand that God doesn't promise that life will be easy, but God does promise that He will always be with us. Even when things are messy or hard, God is at work, and one day God will make everything right through Jesus. We may not always understand when hard things happen, but we can trust that God is using it for good.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:

Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Pens



Inclusive Pro-Tips

If kids prefer not to speak aloud, encourage them to use index cards and a pen to write down their statement or draw a picture that represents it.

Write prayer examples on a dry-erase board that kids can reference or copy onto their paper.

What You Do

- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Review the Bottom Lines from this month. See if any kids can recite them.
 - You can trust God no matter what.
 - You can trust God even when you don't understand.
 - You can trust that God has a plan.
 - You can trust that God is with you.
 - You can trust God when things get tough.
- Write the following prompt on the whiteboard with a dry-erase marker:
 - "I can trust God because _____."
- Invite each kid to repeat the sentence and fill in the blank. Encourage them to think about what they discovered this month and what they know about who God is.
- Demonstrate by going first.
 - I can trust God because He is good.
 - I can trust God because God has a plan.
 - I can trust God because God does what He says He will.
 - I can trust God because God knows everything.
- As you close, ask if any kids would like to pray for the group.
- Close in prayer.