

Small Group Leader Guide

Materials Needed that are Not included in the activity bags:

1. Bible Story Review: Jacob's Wild Journey

- coloring supplies

2. Application Activity: Tough Stuff

- butcher paper

3. Memory Verse Activity: Balancing Act

- floor tape

4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

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

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.

Joseph's Wild Journey

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

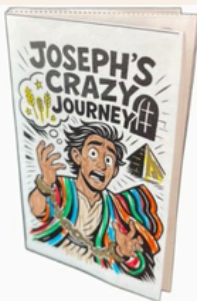
What You Need

- ☐ "Foldable Comic Book" Activity Page
- ☐ Prepared Comic Book Example
- ☐ Coloring Supplies



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group. Take several breaks if any kids need to move around or have extra energy. Allow the kids to stand.



MADE TO
↓
Imagine

What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Show the prepared comic book example.
3. Give each kid a "Foldable Comic Book".
4. Place the coloring supplies in the center of the group.
5. As they kids color their books, guide them through the scenes and review the Bible Story:
 - Scene 1: Jacob gave Joseph a colorful coat.
 - Scene 2: Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him that they sold him off to traders who took him to Egypt.
 - Scene 3: Joseph went to work for Potiphar, but was accused of something he didn't do and was thrown in jail.
 - Scene 4: While he was in jail, Joseph rightly interpreted the dreams of the drink taster and baker.
 - Scene 5: Two years passed. Pharaoh had a dream he didn't understand. The drink taster remembered Joseph, and Joseph was brought before Pharaoh to explain Pharaoh's dream.
 - Scene 6: Pharaoh made Joseph second in command. Joseph oversaw the years of plenty, storing all the grain they could to prepare for seven years of famine. The famine brought Joseph's family to Egypt to ask for food. Joseph was able to forgive his brothers and save his family, bringing all of them to Egypt.

What You Say

"Joseph's life was FULL of ups and many, many downs. But through it all—especially when he thought that everyone had forgotten him—Joseph chose to trust God. His faith kept him going; through the pit, to working in Potiphar's house, to prison, and to the palace. God was faithful. He stayed with Joseph and made something GOOD come out of some really difficult times. Joseph learned that [BOTTOM LINE] you can trust God when things get tough.

"Over and over in Joseph's story, the Bible says: 'God was with Joseph.' The same is true for you too. Not only that, but God promises that He is working for good in every situation in your life. God can bring good out of bad, friends. God loves you and He can be trusted with your fears, and worries, and disappointments. All of it! So this week, when you face something hard, like Joseph faced hard things, remember [BOTTOM LINE] you can trust God when things get tough.

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Tell the kids an age-appropriate story about a time when you faced something tough. Maybe you had a frustrating morning before work or something bigger, like a friend or family member is sick. Talk to the kids about why you believe that [Bottom Line] you can trust God when things get tough. Share with the kids how you have seen God work tough things out for good in your life.

Tough Stuff

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Butcher Paper
- ☐ Marker



What You Do

1. Direct the kids to sit in a tight circle.
2. On the butcher paper, draw a wavy line with high peaks, like a roller coaster.
3. Ask the kids to share some awesome things that happened this week—their “highs.”
 - For example, kids could share a compliment they received, a fun playdate, or something they’re proud of.
4. As the kids share, write what they share down next to the peaks or high points of the wavy line.
5. Ask the kids to name some tough situations they faced this week—some of their “lows.”
 - For example, kids could share something like getting in trouble, having a hard time with a friend, or having a disagreement with a sibling.
6. As the kids share, write what they share down next to the valleys or low points of the wavy line.
7. Point out that we are all facing highs and lows.
8. Draw a thick line through the center of the wavy line with the marker.
9. Write “GOD” in large block letters on top of that line.

② What You Say

“Wow! We all experienced some awesome and not-so-awesome things this week. But guess what? Through your highest highs and your lowest lows, God has been with you. It might not always feel that way—especially when you face the tough stuff. Plus, when we trust God, it doesn’t mean that we’ll always understand why things happen, especially the hard things.

“Trusting God means that we put our confidence in the God who created the whole earth and everything in it—including us. The God who holds the whole world in His hands. The God who loves us so much and made us uniquely and wonderfully. The God whose love lasts FOREVER! I’m so glad to know that God is with me, through all the ups and especially the downs. This week, when you face something hard or something that doesn’t make sense, I want you to remember that [BOTTOM LINE] you can trust God when things get tough.”



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. If kids need more time to process the questions, be patient while they do so.

Balancing Act

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Bible marked at Hebrews

11:1

☐ Floor Tape

MADE TO
↓
Move

What You Do

1. Use the tape to create four separate tapelines.

→ Create one straight, one wavy, one zigzag, and one right angle

2. Choose a kid to open the Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1.

3. Read the verse out loud to the group.

4. Lead the kids to repeat the verse several times together.

5. Discuss any unfamiliar words from the verse.

6. Select four kids to stand at the end of each line.

7. Lead them to repeat the words of the Memory Verse as they walk along the lines.

8. Assist the kids with reciting the verse as needed.

9. Repeat with new kids until everyone has had a turn to walk down a path, reciting the Memory Verse.

10. Point to the different paths. Ask: "Which path was easiest to follow?"

→ Most kids should answer that the straight line was the easiest.

11. Gather the kids and discuss

What You Say

"That was so fun! Great job reciting this month's Memory Verse! The straight path was the easiest to follow, wasn't it? I'm so glad to know that we can put all our trust in God, no matter what the path before us looks like. We might not be able to see everything, but we can be confident that God is with us through it all. Every straight path, every zigzag path with twists and turns—God is right there! We can have faith that we are not alone! Remember [BOTTOM LINE] you can trust God when things get tough, friends!"



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. If a kid prefers to sit down while reciting the verse instead of traveling the tape lines, let them do so.

If a kid needs assistance walking the tape lines, invite another kid to walk alongside them.

K-1st

Small Group

August — Week 5

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ No Supplies Needed



What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Encourage the kids to think about a tough situation they faced this week.
→ Optional: If you completed the Application Activity, place the butcher paper in the center of the circle as a reminder.
3. Give the kids a few seconds to pray quietly on their own, asking God to help them remember that **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God when things get tough.
4. After they've had a few moments to pray, close the group in prayer.

What You Say

"Dear God, we know that You are a GREAT big God who loves us with a great BIG love! Thank You for the story of Joseph and how he chose to trust that You were with him, even through the tough stuff. When we face hard things, remind us that we don't face them alone. Help us trust that You are with us when things get tough. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to point out the wavy lines on the butcher paper or the tape lines on the floor from the "Balancing Act" Activity as they talk about how **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God when things get tough. If they made a comic book, encourage the kids to share Joseph's story and how God was always with Joseph!



Inclusive Pro-Tips

When you're praying with the kids, speak slowly and clearly, and give the kids time to say "Amen" with you at the end.