

Today's Suggested Schedule—August 31, 2025

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)*

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SMALL GROUP (20 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver /
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (30-35 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

- Introduce Monthly Theme Poster
- Review Monthly Memory Verse Poster
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster
- Worship (2 Songs - Video)
- Teaching (Story Lab - Video)
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster

SMALL GROUP (25-30 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Reinforcement Activity

Prayer Journal

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

Social

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

1. Opening Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- ☐ No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Say, "We're going to play Secret Message Telephone! It's like the regular telephone game, but instead of whispering a message, we'll act it out!"
- Instruct the kids to line up, all facing forward.
- Explain the game:
 - The last kid in line is to receive a secret message (acted out silently, not spoken) from you.
 - The last kid in line is to tap the shoulder of the kid in front of them, who turns around to watch and learn the action.
 - Each kid is to act out what they saw for the next kid.
 - This will continue until the action makes it to the front of the line.
- Examples for you to demonstrate for the kids to act out:
 - Playing soccer
 - Taking care of a baby
 - Eating pancakes
 - Getting new sneakers
 - Taking care of a dog
- After the last kid acts out the message, challenge the kids to see if they can guess what the original message was.
- Share the original messages as the kids guess.
- Continue to play as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"It was so much fun playing the Secret Message Telephone game with everyone! It's always interesting to see how messages can change as they get passed along. **[Transition] Today, we're going to hear a true story from the Bible about someone who God sometimes gave 'secret messages' to through dreams. Let's go hear more!**"

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider the needs of your group. If you think some of your kids could get overwhelmed, play in smaller groups.
- If any kids are hesitant to act out the scenario, invite another kid to join them or let them observe the game.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

2. LARGE GROUP

What You Need: TV, Pre-Loaded Video Content

What You Do:

- Introduce/Remind kids about the
 - a. Monthly Theme,
 - b. Monthly Memory Verse
 - c. Today's Bottom Line
- Play 1st and 2nd Worship Songs
- Allow kids to grab a snack
- Play Teaching (Story Lab - Video)
- Review Today's Bottom Line

Lead your group to the Small Group activity.

Groups

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

25 minutes

3. Joseph's Life Memory Match

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Play

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.

4. Joseph's Faith Circle

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Connect

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.

5. Pray and Dismiss

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect

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!