

3-6 | August 31

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.

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)

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering Container

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.

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- 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 watch today's video lesson.

2. **Joseph's Colorful Coat**

What You Need:

- ☐ "Joseph's Colorful Coat" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring Supplies
- ☐ Optional: stickers

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider the needs of your group. Offering foam stickers could engage kids who enjoy tactile activities.

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to sit at a floor table.
- Hand out a "Joseph's Colorful Coat" Activity Page to every kid.
- Set the coloring supplies and stickers in the center of the group.
- Encourage the kids to decorate and design their coats however they want.
 - Help any pre-readers with spelling if needed.

What You Say:

"Joseph's life was FULL of ups and many, many downs; and it all started with a colorful coat! 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.)

3. Verses to Take with You

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible x1
- ☐ Snowballs
- ☐ Floor Tape

What You Do:

- Look up Romans 8:28 and read aloud while having the children repeat after you.
- 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 balls on both sides of the tape line.
- Explain the game:
 - At your signal, teams are to **roll** the balls across the line into the other team's space.
 - The goal is to have the fewest 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 balls on it when you end the round.)
 - The team with the most 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.

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.

4. **Pray and Dismiss**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Encourage the kids to think about a tough situation they faced this week.
- 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.**
- 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."

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- When you pray, use simple and clear words so the kids can understand. Offer an opportunity for the kids to respond "Amen" with you at the end.