

K-2 | August 31

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)

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. **Balancing Act**

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1
- ☐ Floor Tape

What You Do:

- Use the tape to create four separate tapelines.
 - Create one straight, one wavy, one zigzag, and one right angle
- Choose a kid to open the Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1.
- Read the verse out loud to the group.
- Lead the kids to repeat the verse several times together.
- Discuss any unfamiliar words from the verse.
- Select four kids to stand at the end of each line.
- Lead them to repeat the words of the Memory Verse as they walk along the lines.
- Assist the kids with reciting the verse as needed.
- Repeat with new kids until everyone has had a turn to walk down a path, reciting the Memory Verse.
- Point to the different paths. Ask: "Which path was easiest to follow?"
 - *Most kids should answer that the straight line was the easiest.*
- 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.

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.