

ALLEY SG – September 10th/11th

Bible Story: Family Unties (Joseph Sold by His Brothers) • *Genesis 37, 39:1-2*

Bottom Line: When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.

Memory Verse: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding." *Proverbs 3:5, NIV*

Life App: Trust—putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for the kids you know are struggling with friendships or walking through tough situations at home. Ask God to make His presence known to these kids and that they would trust that He is always with them.

Action!

What You Need: Bible, 15 action figures or LEGO® people

What You Do:

- Hand out the action figures or LEGO® people and help kids assign roles to them: Joseph, Jacob, two merchants, Reuben, Judah, and Joseph's other brothers
- Read the Bible story aloud while kids use the figures to act it out. If you have time, read all of Genesis 37, as well as 39:1-2. If you'd like a shorter version, read Genesis 37:3-13, 17b-32, 36; Genesis 39:1-2.

What You Say:

"Joseph was not treated well by his brothers, and he likely felt like he was alone even before they sold him to the Midianite merchants. But we know from the Bible story that God was with Joseph. And we also know that God is with us. **[Bottom Line] When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.** When are some times kids your age might feel alone? *(Pause for responses.)* What could you do during those times to trust God?" **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids an age-appropriate story about a time when you felt alone, but you trusted God was with you.)**

Monkey In The Middle

What You Need: foam ball

What You Do:

- Play a game of "Monkey in the Middle" with the ball:
 - Have the kids stand in a circle
 - Select one player to be the monkey in the middle of a circle
 - The other kids toss the ball through the center.

- Their goal is to keep the ball away from the monkey in the middle, and the monkey's goal is to get the balloon.
- Randomly change the person in the center so no one feels left alone too long.
- After the game, circle up and talk about what it's like to feel alone in the middle of a crowd. Has it ever happened to them? Where, and why? It's hard when it feels like there's no one around you can trust to understand or help you. **When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you. How does it make you feel to know that God is ALWAYS with you?**

Coat of Many Words

What You Need: Bibles, 1 adult-sized coat

What You Do:

- Help kids look up the memory verse, Proverbs 3:5. Use the following tips to help kids find the verse in the Bible.

***Finding verses with 4th and 5th Graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Proverbs in the list under "Old Testament." When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 5 in chapter 3.*

- Say the verse together several times.
- Explain that they'll be doing a coat relay.
- Tell kids to line up, and then give the coat to the kid at one end.
- He will put on the coat, zip it all the way up, say the first word of the verse, take off the coat, and hand it to the next kid.
- The second kid will do the same, but say the second word of the verse.
- Continue until all words have been said. If you run out of kids, send the coat back down the line.
- If a kid can't think of a word, the NEXT kid in line can help. If he doesn't know, the two of them should quickly look it up again in the Bible.
- If you wish, you can time the kids, and then have them do it again and see if they can beat their time.

What You Say:

"Joseph's coat—and his dad's favoritism—caused a lot of trouble with his brothers. But even when Joseph felt alone, God was with him. God is also always with You and me. We can trust in Him with all our hearts. **[Bottom Line] When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.**"

Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the kids and guide them to say this phrase as part of a responsive prayer: “I trust that You are with me.”

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for promising to be with us even when we feel alone. This week, when I feel alone because I am facing a big problem ... (*I trust that You are with me*). When I feel alone because my family or friends misunderstand me ... (*I trust that You are with me*). When I feel alone at school or at home or during practice or in my neighborhood ... (*I trust that You are with me*.) No matter how alone I feel, I will remember Your promise and ... (*I trust that You are with me*). Amen.

“Don’t forget this week that **[Bottom Line]** when you think you’re alone, you can trust God is with you.”

At Pick Up Time:

As adults arrive to pick up, **pass out God Time Cards** Tell their parents to ask kids what they learned about Joseph and how God is always with them.

EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY: Tight Rope Simon Says

What You Need: Masking or painter’s tape, stopwatch

What You Do:

- Make a tapeline on the floor long enough for each kid to stand and have at least three feet of personal space. You may need to make several lines.
- Instruct kids to find a space on the line and spread out from each other.
- Explain that you’re pretending the line is a tight rope and they have to stay on it while they play “Simon Says.”
- In addition to the regular “Simon Says” rules, if either foot touches the ground without also touching the line, they’re out.
- Use some of these actions and make up some of your own:
 - Stand on one foot for 10 seconds
 - Swing one leg out to the side and hold it for five seconds
 - Do a flamingo pose
 - Hop on one foot five times
 - Jump and face the other way three times
 - Skip in place for 10 seconds

What You Say:

“That was fun! You all did a good job with those, but I’m not sure you’re quite up to the talent of circus performers!”