

# CITY LG – September 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>

**Bible Story:** Unhappy Days (Joseph in Jail) • *Genesis 40* (Supporting: *Genesis 39*)

**Bottom Line:** When life doesn't make sense, 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.

**CG: High Wire Theme Slide**

*Host enters carrying the instructional book and several hula-hoops*

## Opener

**HOST:** "Hey there! It is so good to see you here today. Last week we began a new month talking about trust.

**CG: Trust Slide**

"Trust is putting your confidence in someone you can depend on. If you weren't here last week, let me bring you up to speed. I used to dream of being in the circus and putting some trust into action with all the high wires and trapeze swings. And wouldn't you know, I stumbled across this instructional book, (*hold up*) *So You Want to Join the Circus!* And I moved on to the next lesson, but I am having trouble with it.

*Try to figure out how to put the hoops around yourself—around your neck and one arm, between two legs, etc. It's obvious that you have no idea what to do.*

I just don't seem to be getting it, maybe you guys can help me with it.

*Open the book and read the instructions.*

"So you want to join the circus. Lesson Two: 'Ooh-la-la Hoop' trick. Here is a rhyme to help you with the Ooh la la hoop. trick'. Take the circle in your hand ... watch now where it wants to land ... curve your body left and right ... you will see the hoop take flight!

(*Continue reading*) "Then you find a nice croissant ... jelly-filled is what you want ... place it on your head so nice ... then the hoop will turn 'round twice!

(*To audience*) "Okay, I'm still a bit confused. (*Look at the hoop.*) Hmm. This just doesn't make any sense to me. I know how a regular hula-hoop works, just around your waist. That makes sense. But the book called this an 'Ooh-la-la Hoop,' and he said that all of the premiere High Wire cirque performers use it.

*Try again, putting your head and arm through and whipping it around, only to succeed in flinging the hoop off into the crowd.*

“Yikes! Sorry out there! Argh. This just doesn’t make sense.

*Look out into the audience.*

“Wait. Is there anyone who thinks they can help? Anyone who thinks they can master the ‘Ooh-la-la Hoop’?

*Choose a few willing volunteers, and lead a series of mini “challenges” with them. If appropriate, choose other volunteers to try the other challenges as well. The challenges are below:*

- **Ooh-La-La Hoop As Usual**—Just a regular hula-hoop motion with two people against each other. See who can go the longest!

- **Arm-La-La Hoop**—Using either left or right arms, kids stick one arm through and swing the hoop around in a circle as long as they can.

- **Leg-La-La Hoop**—Using either left or right legs, kids stick a leg through and swing the hoop around in a circle as long as they can.

- **Hoop De Triomphe**—Using two appendages—two arms, two legs, or one arm and one leg—see how long kids can do two hoops at once.

*After a series of challenges, lead the audience in applause for the volunteers.*

“Wow! It’s pretty clear you have a leg—and an arm—up on me. I really need to practice, but I still feel like I’m not sure what to do. I’ll see if I can figure this out, kids after I have practiced at home.

## SETTING UP THE STORY

## CG: Trust Slide

**STORYTELLER:** “Like I said earlier, all month long we’re talking about trust—and trust simply means putting your confidence in someone you can depend on. Last week we started a story about a young man named Joseph, and we left with a bit of a cliffhanger! Let me see if I can give you the highlights so far.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 40, and affect a dramatic, movie trailer announcer voice, deep and over-enunciated.*

“Last week, in the Book of Genesis, Jacob was the proud father of a dozen sons.

*Switch voice to a more normal sound, but use different pitches for the different sons.*

“Hi, Dad! Hey, Pop! Cheerio, Father!

*(Movie trailer voice)* “But one son was the favorite. His name ... was JOSEPH. *(Prompt the kids to “ooh.”)*

“Joseph was no ordinary boy! He was the favorite! He got a colorful coat as a gift! He had dreams, yes, dreams, of bundles of grain bowing to his bundle, suns, moons, and stars all bowing down low to him. It was as if he was destined for great things! *(Prompt the kids to “ahh.”)*

“But his brothers—who hated Joseph—had other plans. They grabbed him! Threw him in a well! Found some traders! Sold him for silver! Lied to their father! And now, poor Joseph was all alone in a foreign land, Egypt, a slave to a man named Potiphar.” *(Prompt the kids to “ooh.”)*

“Even though Joseph was alone, God was with him. It is here that our story continues.” Check this out...

## 252 Story Week 2

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Wow, that’s tough. Joseph was in trouble for something he didn’t do. Has that ever happened to anyone before? Has anyone ever gotten in trouble for something you didn’t do? *(Pause for response.)* It stinks, right? So if you don’t know it already, I’m going to let you in on a little secret. Life doesn’t always make sense. Sometimes bad things happen to good people. And sometimes good things happen to bad people. Poor Joseph was thrown into prison when he didn’t even do anything wrong! Sometimes parents get divorced, people get sick, pets get lost, things get stolen. Sometimes it feels like life is spinning out of control. Life just doesn’t make sense—at least not to us. But it may comfort you to know that God can see things we can’t see. And He can turn things that seem bad into good things. Let’s take another look at our Bottom Line for today.

It totally doesn’t make sense, which brings us to today’s Bottom Line.

### CG: Bottom Line Slide

**[Bottom Line]** “When life doesn’t make sense, you can trust God is with you. Can you say that with me?” I’ll say “When life doesn’t make sense” and you say....”You can trust God is with you.” Are you ready??

**ST:** “When life doesn’t make sense”

**Kids:** “You can trust God is with you”

Let’s do that one more time, a little bit louder! (*Repeat the bottom line*)

**STORYTELLER:** “That’s right, and although I don’t think any of you have ever been thrown in jail, there are times when life just doesn’t make sense and we get confused at what God is doing in our lives. I bet that’s something that Joseph must have felt. His life just didn’t make any sense at all! But there’s something we say a lot around here: **[Basic Truth] I can trust God no matter what.**

In those situations I think of one of my favorite verses. It’s Proverbs 3:5, our memory verse for this month!

#### **CG: Memory Verse Slide**

“It says, ‘Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding,’ Proverbs 3:5, (*NIV*). That’s it! That makes me feel so much better! Even though no one is here with me now, God is with me. I can always trust in Him

“It’s true! You can trust that God is going to work everything out. God will help you, cheer you on, and work things out. It may feel like things are all going wrong, but have faith. God can turn things around. Let’s pray.”

#### **Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “Lord, we’ve all felt like Joseph—getting into trouble for something we didn’t do—and sometimes things in life just don’t make sense. I thank You that You see all things and that You promise that You’re working for good in everything. I pray that Your voice is the loudest thing we hear in this noisy world, and that it helps us see how You’re helping us every day. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Dismiss kids to their Small Groups.*