

CITY LG – September 24th/25th

Bible Story: Joseph in Charge (Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams) • *Genesis 41*

Bottom Line: When the pressure is on, 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.

Opener

CG: High Wire

"Hey, everybody! So glad you made it today to The CITY! We have had a great month taking a journey though the life of Joseph. If you weren't here, we have spent a lot of time learning about this Joseph guy from the Bible and we will hear more about him today!

"We have discovered that Joseph really knew what it meant to put our new Life App into practice.

CG: Trust Slide

"Trust is putting your confidence in someone you can depend on ... which reminds me ...

Pick the book up of the stage.

"So, I always had this dream as a little kid that I would one day join the circus. I loved the way those people the way they walked across the high wire or flew through the air on the trapeze! Talk about trust! I always imagined it would be so cool to be in the circus, but I never really did anything about that. Well, *(reveal the book)* I was recently at a garage sale when I found this gem: *So You Want to Join the Circus!* And I have been trying to learn some skills that the performers do at the circus. It hasn't been going very well! Let's see what chapter 3 says...

Open the book and perform the instructions while reading aloud.

(Read instructions) "So you want to join the circus. Lesson three: juggling." *(To audience)* 'Whoa! I have always wanted to juggle. This one should be simple! Juggling looks so easy! *(Read)* 'You will need 3 balls.'

Look around and the three balls.

"Good thing those were just sitting here. Back to the lesson. *(Read and follow instructions)*

- "To get the feel of juggling start with one ball. Throw the ball up and down with one hand for a while." *(throw one ball up and down a few times.)* "Wow, this juggling thing is EASY!"
- "Step two: Take two balls and put one in each hand. Throw the balls from one hand to the

other, one at a time.” *(Throw one ball at a time to the opposite hands. Do this a few times.)*

“Man, they are going to hire me at the circus to be a juggling clown because I am so good at this. I wonder what my clown name should be? Hmmmmmmmm.”

“Ok better get on to step 3. First hold two balls in right hand and one in left-hand. Begin with passing from the right hand. Throw the ball to your left hand and when ball 1 is at the peak, throw ball 2 (the only one in your left hand) under ball 1 to your right hand. When ball 2 is at the highest point (at this point, you should also catch ball 1 in the left hand) throw ball 3 under ball 2. And when ball 2 is in the right hand just catch ball 3 and this should be it. That's all you do! Repeat away.”

“Okay, let me try this...*(be trying to complete the steps as you read, sounding really confused and having a hard time.)*

“Throw the ball to your left hand...then when ball one is at the peak throw ball 2 under ball one.....when ball two is at the highest point.....throw ball 3 under ball two. But you should catch ball 1.....” *(Let this go on for a while)*

“Ugh this is WAY harder than it looks! I just feel so much pressure with all of you looking at me. Man, I really wanted to learn to be a circus performer and I can't even juggle! I can't even be a clown!! I guess a future in the circus is not for me. I know! I should be a race car driver!! All they do is drive a car in a circle. Piece of cake! I can do that. I'll have to go look for a book on that. Well, while I am here, let's see what's going on with our man Joseph”

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Does anyone remember where we last left Joseph? *(Pause for responses.)*

“That's right—in jail! He was thrown in jail after being accused by Potiphar's wife of something he didn't do, but God was with him in the jail, and soon he was put in charge of the whole operation! Then two men—a baker and a cupbearer—came to the jail and had dreams they couldn't understand.

“Well, God gave Joseph the meaning of those dreams, and everything Joseph said came true. The cupbearer was let out of prison and got his old job back—and he was SUPPOSED to say something to Pharaoh—the king—about Joseph being in prison still. But he totally forgot. Joseph stayed in prison for years. And even through it all, even though his brothers sold him, even though Potiphar's wife falsely accused him, even though the cupbearer totally forgot about him, Joseph still trusted God.

CG: Trust Slide

“After all, trust means putting your confidence in someone you can depend on—and Joseph knew he could he could **trust God no matter what**. Even though things looked really bad, and Joseph probably felt really lonely in jail, he knew God was there with him to help him succeed.”

Let's see what happens....

252 Story Week 3

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Within a single day, Joseph had risen from prisoner to the second most important person in Egypt! At Pharaoh’s request, he traveled all over the land, gathering extra food. The land grew amazing, beautiful crops for seven years.

“But the following year, hardly anything grew, just as God had said. The people of Egypt all turned to Joseph, and he provided food for them from the grain he had stored up for the past seven years. In fact, people from other countries who were hungry heard about the grain in Egypt and came to buy from Joseph! Because Joseph had trusted God to be with him during a difficult time, now he and many others were able to survive during those seven lean years. Pretty amazing, don’t you think? Let’s take a look at our Bottom Line for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“When the pressure is on, you can trust that God is with you. Can you say that with me?” I’ll say “When the pressure is on” and you say....”You can trust God is with you.” Are you ready??

ST: “When the pressure is on”

Kids: “You can trust God is with you”

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

Joseph knew the pressure was on to hear God’s meaning for Pharaoh’s dream. Joseph felt the pressure standing in front of Pharaoh, didn’t he? I’ll bet there are times when you feel that same pressure. Maybe it’s when you have to get up in front of your class and talk. Maybe you’re trying out for a team or you’re standing in the batter’s box and it’s up to you to try to get a hit. Maybe you have to sing a solo in the school musical! It might feel like you’ll never be able to do it.

“We feel pressures, big and small, every single day. But I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again. You don’t have to face the pressures of life on your own. God is with you. He’s with you in front of the class, or on the football field, or in any situation! And here’s the best part. Even if you don’t make the team or if things don’t go the way you want or expect, God is still with you! But Joseph knew He didn’t have to worry. He knew he could **trust God no matter what**. All throughout Joseph’s life, he trusted that God was with him—in the well, in prison, and in front of the king. It can be the same way with you. **When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.** Joseph leaned on God to help him succeed, and when times are tough and we’re feeling the pressure, God can do the same for us. Let’s pray.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Heavenly Father, life gets hard sometimes. If we’re faced with something that seems too big to handle, if there’s a situation we’re put in where we don’t know if we can do it ourselves, please help us to look to You. Please help these kids realize You’re there, all the time, as an ever-present help. And just like Joseph, please help us succeed in ways beyond what we could hope or imagine. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Dismiss kids to their Small Groups.