

Alley SG - September 7-8, 2019

Bible Story: Bad Day (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.

Key Question: What does it look like to trust God?

Memory Verse: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...
(Proverbs 3:5 NIV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Small Boxes (1 per student), markers, pens

What You Do:

- **Give** kids a box and markers.
- As a group, **brainstorm** some times you might feel alone.
- **Encourage** kids to write an example on each side of the box. Examples could include:
 - When you are nervous or sad
 - When you have to try something new, or go to a new place or meet new people
 - At night or in the dark
 - When you are scared or lost
 - When people are mean to you

Note: Kids will use their boxes in the Verses to Take with You Activity #4

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Dry Erase Board and Marker (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- **Explain** that the middle of your circle/table/area is the “Hot Seat”
- **Play** a Bible review game with the group.
 - **Select** a kid to sit in the “Hot Seat”
 - **Write** a word on the board from the list below and then **hold up** a word behind the kid in the “Hot Seat” so the group can see what the word is but the kid in the “Hot Seat” can’t see it.
Explain all the words have something to do with the story.
 - The group gives clues and the kid in the “Hot Seat” tries to guess the word.
 - After each word guessed correctly, **discuss** what the word has to do with the story.
 - **Give** everyone a chance to be in the “Hot Seat”
- “Hot Seat” Words and potential discussion questions:
 - Jacob: *Who is Jacob? What was God’s promise to Jacob? (This is an opportunity to connect this story with the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham and to review last week’s story a bit.)*
 - Coat: *Why were the brothers jealous of Joseph’s coat? How could the brother’s jealousy make Joseph feel alone?*
 - Straw: *What did straw have to do with the story? What did this dream mean? Why do you think the dream made Joseph’s brothers mad?*
 - Well: *Give an example of when someone might feel alone.*
 - Egypt: *Joseph was in a foreign country with no family, no friends. Where does the Bible say God was? What is something we can do to remind us God is always with us?*
 - Lie: *In this story, what lies were told? What can be some consequences of telling lies?*
 - Trust: *Who could not be trusted in this story? Why? Who could be trusted? Why?*
 - Jesus: *What did Jesus do when He felt alone? How can praying help us to trust God?*

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- How do we know God is with us when we are alone?
- What do you do to remember to trust God?
(To prompt conversation, be prepared to share a time you felt alone and what you did to remember to trust God.)
- What does it look like when you trust God when you are scared? Or when you are alone?
- What does it tell others about who God is when you trust God no matter what?

4. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Boxes from Activity 1, index cards (approx.. 3 per student), scissors, markers or pens

What You Do:

- **Ask** kids to pick one of the scenarios on their boxes of when they might feel alone.
- **Challenge** kids to find a verse to remind them to trust God for the scenario they selected.
 - If there is time, **challenge** kids to find verses for several of the scenarios on their box.
 - **Allow** kids to work together.
 - If kids are overwhelmed with search results, **guide** them to narrow their search to the New Testament or the Book of Psalms.
- **Give** kids index cards and markers to record the verses they find helpful.
- **Allow** the group to share their verses with each other.
- **Ask** kids:
 - Why they selected the verses they did?
 - Did anyone select the same verse for different scenarios?
 - Why is it important to read, know, and memorize God's Word?
- **Tell** kids to put their verses in their box. If necessary, kids can cut the index cards so they fit in their boxes.
- **Try** to let kids find and choose their own verses, but if needed, some example words to use for searching verses (NIV) are listed below:
 - Trust: Psalm 13:5, Psalm 28:7, Psalm 31:14
 - Never leave: Hebrews 13:5, Deuteronomy 31:6
 - Worry: Matthew 6:34, Philippians 4:6
 - Strength: Isaiah 40:31, Philippians 4:13, 2 Thessalonians 3:3
 - Afraid: Psalm 56:3-4, 11

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Boxes from Activity 4

What You Do:

- **Select** an example from the box of when you might feel alone.
- **Encourage** kids to draw a slip of paper from their box.
- **Ask:** How would the verse help you to trust God when you are alone?
- **Ask** kids to write out a prayer using the verse they selected to praise God for His trustworthiness and to remind themselves of God's promises.
- **Encourage** kids when they feel alone or need to talk to God and don't know where to start, to pull out one of the verse cards in their box and to remind themselves God is trustworthy.

What You Say:

"God, You are trustworthy! We can totally trust You no matter what. Your Word reminds us who You are! Your Word reminds us You are faithful. You will never leave us. We are so thankful we can come to You anytime and share whatever is on our mind and whatever is going on in our lives and be confident You hear us! God, You know each one of us! You love each one of us! And we are so grateful You are our God! Amen!"

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!