

Alley SG - August 31-September 1, 2019

Bible Story: Dream On (Jacob's Dream) • *Genesis 28:10-22*

Bottom Line: You can trust God no matter what.

Key Question: What makes God trustworthy?

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: Signs labeled “Totally Trust” and “No Way” (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in the center of your area.
- **Identify** one space as “Totally Trust” and an opposite space as “No Way.” For example, opposite walls or two chairs on opposite sides of the room. Place the signs on the designated side.
- **Explain** you will read a statement and kids decide if they would trust the something or someone described in the statement.
- **Instruct** kids if they would trust “IT” to run to the “Totally Trust” wall; if they wouldn’t trust “IT” they run to the “No Way” wall.
- Once kids pick a wall, **encourage** them to share why they would or wouldn’t trust “IT.”
- Potential “Would you trust IT” Statements:
 - Would you trust a rickety ladder you had to use to cross over a raging river?
 - What about if you saw people successfully crossing the rickety ladder—would you trust crossing on the ladder then?
 - Would you trust a solid bridge to use to cross over a raging river?
 - You told your friend something private and they told someone else. Would you trust them again with something private?
 - Would you trust a person who you’ve never heard say something bad about someone else?
 - Think of someone you depend on, like a parent, grandparent, favorite babysitter, etc. Would you trust them?
 - Would you trust someone who keeps their promises?
 - Would you trust someone who keeps MOST of their promises?
- If there is interest, **give** kids an opportunity to make up a “Would You Trust IT” statement and let the group respond.

*Tip: Be prepared to **discuss** situations where you may trust someone with one thing, but you don’t “totally trust” them. For example: You might trust a friend who keeps his promises, but you can’t say you would “Totally Trust” him to keep an embarrassing story just between the two of you. However, you can’t say “no way” I would never trust that person. Your level of trust is somewhere in between. **Consider** giving kids the option to rate their level of trust for various situations by suggesting they sit in between the “Totally Trust” and the “No Way” spaces, depending on the level of trust they might have.*

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: “Story Cards” (1 set of 8 per group), tape (1 per group), index cards (8 per group per service) and pens

What You Do:

- **Shuffle** the “Story Cards.”
- Without showing kids the cards, **tape** a card on each kid’s back.
- **Instruct** the group to stand in a line so the story cards in are in the correct order. The catch is that they cannot talk while figuring out the order.
- Once kids think they have the correct order, **read** the cards out loud.
- **Allow** kids to change spots to make corrections to the story line if necessary.
- To review the story in more detail, **consider** asking the following questions for each “Story Card” read:
 - Card 1: God made a promise to Abraham. (*What was God’s promise?*)
 - Card 2: Abraham had a son Isaac. Isaac and Rebekah had twins: Esau and Jacob. (*Describe Esau. Describe Jacob.*)
 - Card 3: Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for some of Jacob’s stew. (*What is a birthright? Why was it a big deal that Esau gave away his birthright? What did this mean for Jacob and Esau’s future?*)
 - Card 4: Jacob tricked Isaac into giving Jacob a special blessing instead of giving it to Esau. (*How did Jacob trick Isaac?*)
 - Card 5: Esau was mad and plotted revenge against Jacob. (*Why was Esau mad? Is Jacob someone you would “Totally Trust,” “No Way,” or somewhere in between? Why?*)
 - Card 6: Jacob ran away and had a dream about God. (*What was Jacob’s dream? What promise did God give in Jacob’s dream? How did God keep His promise to Jacob?*)
 - Card 7: Jacob used a stone to mark the place where he had the dream and made a promise to God. (*What was Jacob’s promise?*)
 - Card 8: Jesus was born and gave His life to pay for the sins of the whole world. (*Why is Jesus part of this story?*)
- **Ask:**
 - How does this story show us God’s trustworthiness? How did God have Jacob’s back in the story today?
 - Can you give an example of someone who had your back? What does it look like for God to have your back?

*Optional: Instead of using the Story Cards provided, **guide** the group to make their own Story Cards. **Give** each kid an index card and **instruct** the group to review the story together by writing a review sentence on each index card. **Guide** them, if necessary, to make sure they cover the entire story in their review. **Continue** with the activity using the group’s Story Cards.*

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Think of someone you trust. Why do you trust that person?
- What makes God trustworthy?
- What if God doesn’t answer your prayers the way you want—why can you still trust Him?
- What does the story of Jacob have to do with Jesus? Why is this story important?

4. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, balls (2 per group), timer on mobile device, paper, pen

What You Do:

- As a group, **look** up Proverbs 3:5 and **read** it out loud.
- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Explain** the group will play a memorization game.
- To **play**:
 - Kids will *gently* toss a ball to someone else in the group. Before they toss the ball, they say a word of the memory verse.
 - The challenge is to toss the ball so everyone in the circle touches the ball before completing the verse.
 - You cannot toss the ball to someone directly next to you.
- **Play** several rounds.
 - Round 1: Do the first part of the verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart.* **Challenge** kids to see how fast they can complete the verse. **Record** the fastest time.
 - Round 2: Do the second part of the verse: *Do not depend on your own understanding.* *Proverbs 3:5.* Again, **challenge** kids to see how fast they can complete the verse. **Record** the fastest time.
 - Round 3: **Add** the fastest times from Round 1 and 2 together and **challenge** kids to say the entire verse in that amount of time.
 - *Optional: To increase the challenge, once kids know the verse well, consider adding a second ball.*

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Alphabet beads (1 bag per group), paper, pens

What You Do:

- **Give** kids a pen and paper.
- **Place** the alphabet beads in the center of the circle.
- **Instruct** kids to pick a bead, set it on their paper and write a word starting with the letter they drew that describes God.
- **Repeat** for several beads.
- **Allow** kids time to share their words with the group.
- **Remind** kids they can “Totally Trust” God.
- **Close** in prayer. Use words the kids came up with during this activity to praise God for who He is and to thank Him for being “Totally Trustworthy.”

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!