

City LG - September 14-15, 2019

Bible Story: Steel Bars (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 (NirV)

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: "No Pressure" and "Look to You"

(Worship Leader prays)

Supplies Needed: "God was with him/God is with YOU" Sign, Barbie Doll, and Fake Handcuffs (1 set per Campus)

"Hi, everyone! Last week we looked at the story of a young man named Joseph. *(Hold up Bible.)* Actually, we looked at the BEGINNING of Joseph's story. There's a lot more that we'll get into today!

"Let's recap really quickly. Joseph was his father Jacob's favorite son. But Joseph's older brothers became so jealous that they sold Joseph to some traders. They told their father that Joseph had been killed by an animal. The traders took Joseph all the way to Egypt. Joseph had to be a servant in the house of a man named Potiphar, who was the captain of Pharaoh's guard. Pharaoh was like the king of Egypt, and Potiphar had a really important job working for him.

"It wasn't a great situation for Joseph to have to be a servant in Potiphar's house. But still, Joseph knew something important. He knew that . . .

Hold up the "God was with him" sign.

". . . God was with him.

"In fact, God helped Joseph to do well in his job. Soon, Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything he owned. Things were looking pretty good for Joseph—after all, Potiphar really trusted him.

"Things WERE good . . . until . . .

Hold up the Barbie doll.

". . . Potiphar's wife started bothering Joseph. She was trying to make him do something wrong. Joseph wanted to make the wise choice. He knew he shouldn't do anything against Potiphar. But Potiphar's wife got angry when she couldn't get Joseph to do what she wanted him to. She told a lie and said that Joseph had done something terrible. Even though Joseph had done nothing wrong, he was put into prison."

Put the Barbie doll down. Hold up the handcuffs and lock them on your wrists.

"Prison? Aw, MAN! What a bummer for Joseph! And he hadn't even done anything to deserve it.

"But still . . . who was with Joseph? *(Pause for response.)* That's right.

Hold up the "God was with him" sign.

"God was with him.

“It was just like when Joseph was in Potiphar's house; God helped him and gave him success. Before long, Joseph was in charge of all the prisoners and everything that happened in the jail. Wow!”

Unlock the handcuffs and take them off your wrists.

“One day the jailer dragged in two prisoners: the king's baker and drink taster. The jailer put Joseph in charge of them. Both of the men had strange dreams that made them confused and sad. Joseph asked the men to tell him their dreams to see if he could help. Before I tell you any more of the story, I'll let our video tell you what happened next. Let's watch!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:45)

“When Joseph heard that things happened just as he said they would, it was pretty clear that . . .

Hold up the “God was with him” sign.

“ . . . God was with him.

“Joseph was really hoping the drink taster would remember him. Maybe it would be his big chance to get out of prison! It really seemed like things were going his way. But . . . *(sigh)* . . . the drink taster forgot all about him.

“If I were Joseph, I think I would have felt pretty confused. Probably disappointed, too. I mean, after EVERYTHING he had been through—after God had so clearly given him the wisdom to explain those two dreams—surely God was making a way to get him out of prison. Right? It just didn't make sense that God had brought him through all of that for nothing.

“But still, even though things didn't make a lot of sense for Joseph at the time, this never changed:

Hold up the “God was with him” sign.

“God was with him.

“Joseph still trusted that somehow, everything would make sense in the end. He knew that even if he couldn't understand what was happening in that moment, he could **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what.**

“Here's what else is true.

Flip the sign around so the kids can see the “God is with you” side.

“God is with YOU.

“Even when bad things happen . . . even when things don't seem to make sense . . . even when you can't see the bigger picture . . . God is with you.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.

(Point to the words on the sign.) “This is true. You can count on it. Life is full of ups and downs and things that we might not understand. But through it all, we can trust God and believe that He has a good plan.

“Let's pray and ask God to help us trust Him.”

Pray: “God, it's so cool to see how You were with Joseph through everything that happened to him. Thank You for showing us that You are always with US . . . even when life doesn't seem to make sense. Please help us

remember that You always have a good plan for us. Help us to trust You through all the ups and downs we face each day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen."

"God didn't promise us that things wouldn't be hard sometimes, but He HAS promised this.

Hold up the sign so the kids can see the "God is with you" side.

"He is with you. He will ALWAYS be with you—even when things are really hard.

"Remember this.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "When life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.

"When bad things happen, we might feel like we can't trust God. But that's when we should trust God the most. Because what doesn't make sense to us DOES make sense to God. He knows everything. He loves us. He's not going to let us go through the bad times alone.

"In Small Group you'll talk some more about how you can trust God in the tough times. I know you'll have some great ideas! Before we head there, let's worship God with our offering!"

Offering Time:

"Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else's life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called 'Missions of Hope' to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God's love for them."

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

"(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya and is part of a really great place called Mission of Hope International! We have some friends of Parkview Kids that are there right now as we speak!"

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! (*show offering container*)."

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 3:00)

Dismiss kids to their small groups.