

City SG - September 28-29, 2019

Bible Story: God's Plan (Joseph Forgives His Brothers) • *Genesis 42–45*

Bottom Line: You can trust God has a plan.

Memory Verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.*
Proverbs 3:5 (*NirV*)

1. Family Plans

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to share about certain plans their families follow—for meals, for packing the car, for getting ready for school or bed, etc.
- Let them compare plans and see how different families do different things.

2. Retell It Your Way

What You Need: Paper (1 sheet per child), markers, pens, scissors, tape (1 per group), Bibles

What You Do:

- Set out the supplies so all kids can reach them.
- Tell kids they can each choose a way they want to retell the Bible story that they can later share with their families. They can:
 - Write a news article or blog post
 - Create a comic strip
 - Make finger puppets
 - Write a song or poem
- If some kids finish before others, let them practice retelling the story to each other using their creations.

What You Say:

“Joseph trusted his brothers, but they threw him in a well, talked about killing him, sold him to some traders, and then told their father Joseph was killed by a wild animal. And they thought they had gotten away with it. But God had a bigger plan in mind. Joseph would never have become a leader of Egypt if God hadn't helped him interpret Pharaoh's dreams, which he never would have done if he hadn't met Pharaoh's cupbearer, who he never would have met if he hadn't been thrown into jail, where he wouldn't have been if he hadn't been in Egypt. And the only reason Joseph was in Egypt is that his brothers sold him into slavery.

“When Joseph's brothers came to him in Egypt all those years later, he said this: *You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good. He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives (Genesis 50:20 NirV).* God had an amazing plan all along, though nobody would have been able to see it until it all happened.

“Sometimes we have to wait a long time to know why something happened—what God's plan was. And sometimes we'll never know why. But what we CAN know is that God ALWAYS has a plan. When you think you're alone, **[Bottom Line] you can trust God has a plan.** When life doesn't make sense, **[Bottom Line] you can trust God has a plan.** When the pressure is on, **[Bottom Line] you can trust God has a plan.** God is completely, 100 percent trustworthy!”

3. The Big Plan

What You Need: Paper (4 sheets per group, per service), pens

What You Do:

- Divide kids into three groups.
- Each group will come up with a plan for a camping trip: where they're going, what they'll take, how they'll get there, who will go with them, what they'll see when they get there, etc.
- Let groups briefly share their plan with another group.

What You Say:

"You each had a different plan, and often, God has a different plan than we do. And we can trust that His plan is always better than ours is, even when it doesn't always seem like it. When everything seems to be falling apart, God has a plan. When your parents get divorced, God has a plan. When your grandma dies, God has a plan. When you can't get along with your friends or your siblings, God has a plan. What are some other situations where things don't make sense? *(Allow a few moments for kids to respond.)* **[Bottom Line] You can trust God has a plan.**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time in your life when everything seemed to be spiraling out of control, but you chose to trust that God had a plan instead of spiraling out of control as well. If you can now see what God's plan was, share that with the kids. If you have no clue what the plan was and/or if you're still going through it, share that with the kids, and tell them how you're choosing to trust His plan even though you can't see it right now.)

4. Bouncy Verse

What You Need: Prepared Cups (2 Words of the Verse per Cup, 8 Cups-1 set per group), ping-pong balls(15 per group), floor tape

What You Do:

- Line the cups up on the floor about six inches apart. Put a tape loop on the bottom of each cup to help keep them upright during the game.
- Make a tape line four to six feet away from the cups on each side of the cup line.
- Guide half of the kids to stand behind one line and half behind the other.
- Hand out the balls. (Some kids might get more than one. Or some kids might need to share and take turns.)
- Tell kids their goal is to bounce their balls into the cups so they end up in verse order.
- If they don't quickly understand they first need to work together to figure out which cup each kid's ball should go into, guide them to do so.
- Give kids time to try to bounce their balls into the cups. If they have a lot of trouble, allow them to stand closer to the cups.
- They can leave the line to chase down their ball, but then they must stand behind one of the lines to try again. If kids need to share a ball, make sure they take turns.
- When all balls are in their cups, say the verse together several times.
- *Alternative Option: Lay the cups on their sides, and tape them down. Challenge kids to blow the ping-pong balls into the cups in the correct order.*

What You Say:

"No matter what you're going through, trust that God has a plan for you. You can't depend on your own understanding, because chances are that when you're in the middle of it, you definitely won't understand what is going on. But you can always trust in God. **[Bottom Line] You can trust God has a plan** and it is for your good."

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Ask kids to quickly tell you what happened in each Bible story this month:
 - Week One: Jacob's dream (Genesis 25:19-34; 27, 28:10-22)
 - Week Two: Joseph sold by his brothers (Genesis 37, 39:1-2)
 - Week Three: Joseph in jail (Genesis 40)
 - Week Four: Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41)
 - Week Five: Joseph forgives his brothers (Genesis 42-45)
- Remind kids of how God was working through all of it to carry out His plan for Joseph and his brothers, and it was also all part of the bigger story of Jesus in the Bible.
- Close with a prayer like the one below.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for being so awesome and amazing that You have the ability to be in control of everything. Thank You for the plan You had for Joseph, thank You for the plan you have for each of our lives, and thank You for Your biggest plan to bring Jesus to earth to live and to die for our sins so that we can live with You forever. In Jesus' name, amen.

"Remember, no matter what you're going through, **[Bottom Line] you can trust God has a plan.**"

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!