

# Alley SG—October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** Big Picture (Joseph Forgives His Brothers) • *Genesis 41–45*

**Today's Key Question:** When has something turned out better than you expected?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Hold on because there's a bigger story

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9 (NIRV)

## 1. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** “Cloud of Witnesses” Activity Page (1 per kid), Bibles, pens

### What You Do:

- Ask for a volunteer to use a Bible or their Bible App on their phone or device and look up Hebrews 12:1-2.
- Invite them to read it out loud for the group.
- Explain that the “Cloud of witnesses” mentioned in the passage is referring to real people who lived long ago, and saw God do amazing things.
- Give each kid a copy of the “Cloud of Witnesses” Activity Page and ask if anyone can name people from today's story who could be in that cloud. (*Answers may include: Joseph, Jacob, Joseph's brothers*)
- Ask kids to think of other people they have read about in the Bible who experienced God's power. (*ie: Abraham, Moses, Peter, etc.*)
- Instruct them to write these names on other lines in the cloud.
- Discuss how Jesus had ultimate grit when He died on the cross for us. That IS the bigger story that we can hold on to for hope, no matter what we're going through.
- Read Galatians 6:9 to your group and point out how the stories we hear about God working in others' lives can encourage us to not grow weary in following Jesus and doing good.

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** “Big Picture” Cards (1 set per group in a bag), “Small Picture” Page (1 per group with cut out hole), White cardstock (1 per kid), pens/markers

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a plain white piece of paper and something to draw with.
- Guide kids to spread out and find a place where they can draw on their paper without people seeing what they're drawing.
- Have each kid take a card from the bag. They can look at the paper but should not show anyone else what it says.
- Explain that they will take a few moments to draw on their paper whatever it says on the card they received.
- Once everyone is finished drawing, have kids take turns placing the “Small Picture” over top of their drawing in order to show it to the entire group.
- Other kids can then guess what they drew, based on what the small portion they are able to see.
- Once everyone has had a chance to share their picture, say this:
  - Some of these were pretty challenging to figure out what the big picture was. The truth is, when it comes to our lives, there is always a bigger story than what we can see. Thankfully, we can hold on because there's a bigger story. And God always knows exactly what that is for each of us. We can trust God with that, no matter what.
- ***[Make it Personal] (Be prepared to share a personal example of a time where perhaps the small details in your life didn't make sense. But then explain how God allowed you to eventually see it all come together for a bigger story. It's okay to share real-life difficulties you may have faced, just be sure to share only the details of the story that are age appropriate for your group.)***

### 3. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Alley Cash

**What You Do:**

- Provide Alley Cash for any kids that raise their hands first and correctly answer the below trivia.
- Questions/Answers:
  1. How long after the drink taster got out of prison did he finally remember to tell Pharaoh about Joseph? *(two years later)*
  2. Explain the dream that Pharaoh asked Joseph to interpret. *(Seven fat cows came out of the river. Then seven thin cows ate the fat cows. Then he dreamed about seven full heads of grain on a stem. Seven weak, thin heads of grain grew up and swallowed up the seven good heads of grain.)*
  3. What did Joseph say that Pharaoh's dream meant? *(Seven good years of food are coming, but they will be followed with seven years of famine.)*
  4. What happened to Joseph after he interpreted Pharaoh's dream? *(Pharaoh trusted him, and therefore appointed him in charge of all the land in Egypt. He was now second in command to Pharaoh.)*
  5. What dream came true that Joseph had had years and years before? *(That his brothers would bow down to him.)*
  6. What did Joseph do right before he revealed to his brothers who he was? *(Upon hearing that his father was still alive, and the sight of seeing his younger brother, Benjamin, he left the room and wept. Then he hugged his brothers and forgave them.)*
  7. *NOTE: Come up with some questions of your own as time and interest allows.*
- Ask:
  - What do you think was the most difficult substance to identify?
  - Can you think of a time in your life when you have felt like Joseph probably did, and it was hard to understand the bigger picture?
- Remind kids that the same God who worked in such a mighty way in Joseph's life is also working in their lives, too.

### 4. Discussion Questions

- When has something turned out better than you expected?
- How does it make you feel to know that God is writing a bigger story in your life, just like God did for Joseph?
- Even though we know there's a bigger story, why is it so hard to believe that sometimes?

### 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

- Close in prayer

**What You Say:**

"Thank you, God, for this group. Help us grow closer to each other. Be with us throughout the week as we continue to trust You with the bigger story. In Jesus' name, Amen."