

## City LG—October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

**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)

**REMINDER: Kids will need to be grouped into Small Groups to begin Service**

**WORSHIP: "Undefeated" and "Something Good"**

"Hi, everybody! Listen, I was thinking about today's story, and it's just such an amazing example of grit! You might remember that God helped Joseph so that he was able to explain the meaning of some strange dreams. Which brings me to ask you all this question...

**SLIDE: Question (Have you ever had a dream that you can remember?)**

Take 3 minutes to talk it out with your Group. Ready? GO!"

**CG: Question Video (Runtime: 3:00)**

Joseph was a dreamer, but he could also interpret dreams. This meant that he could tell people what their dreams really meant. During his time in prison, Joseph had explained the meaning of a dream for the pharaoh's drink taster. Joseph had asked this man to talk to the pharaoh and see if he could help get Joseph out of prison. But unfortunately, the drink taster completely forgot about Joseph . . . until two WHOLE YEARS later! C'mon man! Let's head to our Story Lab to find out what happens next!"

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:00)**

"Joseph FORGAVE his brothers. He told them to go home and bring their dad, Jacob, and the rest of their families to live in Egypt where they would have enough food. The whole family settled in a place called Goshen, and they had enough to eat through the rest of the famine.

"Joseph's story teaches us this week's Bottom Line. Let's learn it together!"

**CG: Bottom Line Video (Runtime: 1:00)**

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] "Hold on because there's a bigger story.**

"God had a bigger plan through ALL the ups and downs of Joseph's life. In the end, God brought Joseph's whole family back together—and God worked through everything that happened to save many lives.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us have the kind of grit that Joseph did.”

**PRAY:** “Dear God, it’s amazing to see how You took care of Joseph. He went through some terrible things in his life, but You were always with him. In the end, it turned out that everything led up to the moment when Joseph forgave and saved his brothers. You always had a good plan for his life, and You have a good plan for our lives, too. Help us remember to trust You always. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“What an amazing story! God had a bigger plan for Joseph than Joseph could have ever imagined for himself. In the end, God made a way for Joseph to be able to save his whole family.

“It must have been tough for Joseph to hold on in those moments when everything seemed to be going wrong like when his brothers threw him in a pit or he was thrown in prison. But God was with Joseph through it all. Joseph trusted that God had a bigger plan for his life—and God really did!

“When things don’t go the way we want, we can choose to act like Joseph did. We can ask God to give us the grit to hold on and stay strong, even in the face of big challenges.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

“We can **[Bottom Line]** hold on because there’s a bigger story.

“The really cool part is to think about what Joseph’s story led to later. Joseph was part of Abraham’s family, and many, many years later, JESUS would be born as part of Abraham’s family line! We know that God had a big plan for ALL of us, because of what Jesus did for us. Jesus died on the cross and paid the price for our sin so we could be forgiven!

“It might be hard to hold on when things happen that we don’t understand—like if we’re having trouble with a friend or someone we love is very sick. In those moments, it’s important to remember that **we can trust God no matter what**. We can hold on and trust that God is still working in our lives. God can see the bigger story, even if we can’t. And God knows how it will all be made right in the end.”

#### **OFFERING TIME:**

We are giving our offering to our friends in Mexico through an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries. Unfortunately, many families in Mexico don’t have enough money for food or education. Vida Nueva Ministries is dedicated to overcoming poverty through education. Here is a picture of one of their amazing teachers.

**SLIDE: Teacher in Classroom**

Vida Nueva has built an entire set of schools in the city of Piedras Negras, where kids of all backgrounds can come and learn. They also receive meals and hear about Jesus. Isn’t that great? So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!