



FAITH | WEEK 4 | AUGUST 24, 2025 | ELEMENTARY

JOSEPH

Key Application: Faith - Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.

Bible Story: Joseph • *Genesis 37, 39-45*

Key Question: When has something bad turned into something good?

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

Memory Verse: Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

All month, we're doing a deep dive into the origins of our faith! Kids are concrete thinkers, and while faith comes easily to some, others struggle to believe in a God they can't see with their own eyes. That's why it's so important to help kids understand that faith in God isn't a "blind leap." We may not be able to see God with our physical eyes, but we can see the countless things that God has done and the promises that God has fulfilled. This is true for the stories from Genesis we'll cover this month, but it's also true in the lives of Jesus followers over the last two thousand years—and in your own life.

This is a great month for you and other ministry leaders or volunteers to share a personal, age-appropriate story of something God has done in your life, and how your own faith grew as a result. You can also remind kids that faith is not something we have to work up to on our own. Paul wrote in Romans 10:17 that "faith comes from hearing the message.

And the message that is heard is the message about Christ" (NirV). The more that we hear about God's deep love for us in His Word, the Bible, and about the things that Jesus said and did, the stronger our faith becomes. Our faith also grows when we live out the things we have learned. In fact, Hebrews records that Jesus is the Author and Perfector of our faith. Encourage kids that they can ask God to grow their faith—and trust that He will do it.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → • You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → • A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

Doors
Open
9:15/11:00

Large Group
Starts
9:35/11:20

Small Group
Starts
10:05/11:50

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: 5th SUNDAY FUNDAY) (Once in a while there are 5 weeks in a month instead of 4 – and that’s awesome! It’s worth celebrating. The next 5th Sunday is at the end of this month, and we want you to come and bring your friends! But here’s the catch.... we aren’t actually going to have 5th Sunday Funday in KidCity.... you guys (elementary and up) will be in Big Church with your parents for a special experience!

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

ON A ROLL

(Party streamers – 2 rolls)

We are continuing to talk about the ‘origin story’ of our faith. What is faith? Glad you asked....

(SLIDE: KEY APPLICATION) Faith - Trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

Faith in God isn’t a “blind leap.” We may not be able to see God with our physical eyes, but we can see the countless things that God has done and the promises that God has fulfilled. To have a really deep faith, we have to go WAY back to the very beginning. More on that in a bit!

First, let’s check out our memory verse for the month.

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE) Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. *Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)*

Take a minute to explain that ‘Hebrews’ is a book in the New Testament, and that the

first number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘NirV’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.

You’ll have more time to practice this month’s verse, but for now let’s play a game!

(SLIDES: GAME SLIDE with MUSIC)

HOW TO PLAY

- Choose 2 kids, one boy and one girl.
- Give each kid a roll of streamers. On ‘GO’ they will have to completely unroll the streamers (the normal way, no pushing in the middle or ripping it).
 - *For older kids, give them the extra challenge of only using one hand.*
- First kid to completely unroll the streamers win!

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: WAVEWALKER, I THANK GOD)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No Supplies)

Have you ever tried something you didn’t like, but now you love? Like maybe it was a vegetable that you didn’t like when you were younger, but now you love it? Or maybe there’s a game you weren’t that into, but when you tried it again, it was awesome! Go ahead and ask your neighbor about something that used to be bad, but then became good. *(Pause).*

Those were great responses. I think we can all think of a time when something bad ended up being really good. But has there been a time where you were stuck feeling like you were in a bad season of life and didn’t know how to get out? Maybe you have had bad thing after bad thing happen to you, and you felt like it was never going to get better, or maybe it’s just the same thing and it’s taken forever for you to get over it? Well, today’s story we’ll hear about a man named Joseph who had bad thing after bad thing happen to him over and over again.

Ok, let’s check out our video for today.

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)

Over and over in Joseph’s story, the Bible says: ‘And God was with him.’ The same is true for you. When you follow Jesus, God’s very Spirit lives in you—God is not just with you, but He’s in you! God is with you when things are tough, and you can trust Him.

“When you’re in a hard situation like Joseph was, and you don’t know what to do, the best place to start is by talking to God in prayer and asking Him to help you remember that He is with you and you can trust Him. He is working for good in the hard things in your life, because being good is all He knows how to do.



Another way to say it is how our Basic Truth for this week says it...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

We can be confident and still have hope even in the hard times because we know that God loves us and works all things for the good of those who love Him.

Before we go to small groups, let's turn to our neighbor and answer the Key Question for today.

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) 'When has something bad turned into something good?'

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don't try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

"Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

"I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let's pray.

"God, thank You so much for this month where we got to know You more. Thank You for this great story that reminds us that no matter what is happening, we can trust You because You are always good and have a good plan. Thank You for your best plan, sending Jesus to fix everything we broke—including our closeness with You. When life gets hard, teach us how to trust You. We want to live, fully trusting Your goodness. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS



SMALL GROUP

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TALK ABOUT IT (K-5th)

There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.

Key Question: When has something bad turned into something good?
(Answers will vary)

LOOK IT UP (K-5th)

Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.

Look Up: Hebrews 11:22

Say: The book of Hebrews is in the New Testament. This chapter (chapter 11) is often called 'The Hall of Heros' because it talks about people throughout the Bible who had incredible FAITH that God keeps His promises and that He has a plan for the whole world – even when they themselves never saw the ending. Before Joseph died, he knew that Egypt wasn't going to be his family's home forever, he knew that God had a land promised for them. In faith, he wanted to be buried in that promised land (which wouldn't happen for another 400 years!)

PRACTICE IT (K-5th)

("Joseph's Memory Match" Activity Page – 1 set per group, ball pit ball – 1)

What You Do:

- Work together as a group..
- Shuffle the set of "Joseph's Memory Match" Activity Page cards.
- Spread the cards out face down.
- Explain how to play:
 - The kids will take turns flipping over two cards at a time, trying to find matching pairs.
 - The goal is to match a "bad" event in Joseph's life with the "good" God brought out of it.
 - Kids can use the colored borders to confirm they have a match.
 - Keep playing until all the cards are matched!
- **SAY:** Joseph went through some really hard times in his life. But did Joseph ever give up?
(Invite responses.) No, he didn't! He kept trusting that God was in control. And God took

Joseph from prison all the way to the palace, where he helped save thousands of people, including his own family. That's why faith is SO important. Faith is trusting in what you *can't* see because of what you *can* see. We can't always see how things will turn out, but we have seen that God is good—in Joseph's story, and in Bible story after Bible story. We've also seen Him be good in our own lives. And when we look at what we know about God, that He is good and He is always working for good, we can trust Him.

- Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Hold the ball and say: "Joseph trusted that God was with him, even when he was in prison. We are going to think about some ways we can trust God when things get tough too. I will get us started. When things are tough, I can remember that God loves me."
- Pass the ball to one kid in the circle.
- Instruct the kid who catches the ball to share one way they can trust God when things get tough.
 - *If the kids are stumped, share examples, like: I can remember that God loves me, I can remember God is always with me, I can remember that God is good and He is always working for good, I can remember who God says I am, I can ask the Holy Spirit to help me, I can remember God's promises.*
- For kids who need more support processing, ask simpler questions like:
 - "What's something hard that you can trust God with?"
 - "Can you think of a time when God helped you?"
- Continue passing the ball around the circle until every kid has shared.

What You Say:

Amazing job, everyone! You did an awesome job thinking about how we can trust God when life gets tough! Joseph did the same thing. Joseph faced so many tough situations—like being betrayed by his brothers, being thrown into a pit, and even going to jail. But no matter what happened, Joseph chose to trust God. He chose to trust that God is good and had good plans for his life. And that helped him get through what he was facing.

"Just like Joseph, you can trust God when things get tough. Maybe you're facing something difficult at home, school, or with friends. But remind yourself of these truths: God is good and He is always working for good, even if you can't see it. Remind yourself of God's promises, like some of the ones we talked about. Remind yourself that He is always with you, that He loves you, that you are precious to Him. Remembering who God is and what He promises will help you trust Him as you go through the tough thing you're facing.

"In fact, even Jesus, God's Son, had to trust God when He was facing something really hard, like being arrested and dying on the cross. But because Jesus knew God would bring good out of something tough, something amazing would come from it. Jesus paid for sin and broke the curse. Jesus made it possible for us to be in relationship with God forever!"

GET STRONGER (K-5th)

(Memory Verse Poster, ball from previous activity)

What You Do:

- Challenge any kid who already has the Bible verse memorized to say it. Give them praise!
- Use the ball from the previous activity to play a version of 'Hot Potato'.
- Have kids sit in a circle and pass the ball around while they all say the memory verse out loud. When it gets to the end, whoever is holding the ball has to get up, run around the circle, and sit back in their spot.
- Repeat as time and interest allows.

PRAYER

“God, thank You for always being with us, no matter what. When we are going through hard times, please help us to trust You, like Joseph did! Please help us to know that You will never leave us and You will always help us through. We want to learn to trust and rest in You. Thank You for always being there for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”