

**Today's Bible Story:** Weighed Down (Jacob and Esau's Reconciliation) • *Genesis 31:3; 32:3-32; 33:1-17*

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can trust God even when you're worried.

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

**Monthly Virtue:** Trust—Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

*Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)*

*Video: Theme Loop*

## OPENER

*AUDIO: Circus music*

**LEADER:** "Hellllllooooo, everyone, and welcome to our final week at Kidzone's Circus!

"We've had an incredibly fun month so far with all these high-flying, gravity-defying stunts!

*SLIDE: Acrobats*

*AUDIO: Music fades*

"Okay, maybe we haven't been flying quite THAT high in this room, but we've still been having a blast learning about trust.

*Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue*

**"Trust is putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.**

*Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme*

"Trust is something we do all the time. We trust the people who take care of us at home and at school. We trust our friends, because we know they've got our back, no matter what. And we can definitely trust God. We can trust that God LOVES us and is always with us!

"I've asked a couple of brave volunteers if they're willing to put their trust in a couple of YOU here today. Let's welcome our volunteers.

*Bring out the volunteers and introduce them.*

*(to the kids)* "Now, I need two of YOU to volunteer as well. I need two trustworthy individuals, because these two *(reference the volunteers)* will be putting all their confidence in you!

*Select two older/taller kid volunteers (ideally, the same gender as the adult volunteers they're paired with). Bring*

*them up to the front and assign each kid to one adult volunteer.*

"[Kids' names] your challenge is to make your partner up as a clown! But of course, there's a trick. You'll be the arms and hands of your partner as you do it. In other words, you'll stand behind your partner and apply the makeup, nose, and wig without actually seeing what you're doing. You'll have three minutes to make your partner look as clown-tastic as possible. Then, when time's up, we'll all vote on which team did the best. Any questions?

*Give the goggles and poncho to the adult volunteers to put on. Then have them sit in the chairs, pulled up to the table. Move the kid volunteers to stand behind them and give each kid the makeup and props for their clown.*

"On your mark, get set, GO!

**AUDIO: Circus music**

*Set a timer on your phone for three minutes. Comment on the action as the kids decorate their partners. Give the volunteers a heads-up at one minute, another one at thirty seconds, then count down from ten seconds.*

"Three . . . two . . . one . . . time's up!

"It's time to vote. Who do you think is the best clown? Vote with your cheers and applause. Do you think it's clown number one?

*Put your hand over the first clown and allow the kids to respond.*

"Or is it clown number two?

*Put your hand over the second clown and allow the kids to respond.*

*(to the two adult volunteers)* "Well [volunteers' names], I must say, I think you're BOTH winners for being willing to clown around with us today! Let's take a selfie. Or is it a clownie? *(Use your phone to snap a selfie with the clowns.)* Here are some wipes and paper towels so you two can clean up. *(to audience)* The rest of you, up on your feet. Let's have some more fun as we sing and worship God!"

*Dismiss the two kid volunteers to their seats as you get ready for Worship.*

*The two adult volunteers use the wipes and paper towels to clean up as they exit.*

## WORSHIP

**LEADER:** “It’s amazing that the God of the universe loves us so much and cares about our lives. We can depend on God, just like we’ve heard in our memory verse this month, Proverbs 3:5.

**SLIDE: Memory Verse**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5, NIV)”*

“I love that verse because it reminds me that I don’t have to depend on just the things that I (*point emphatically to yourself*) can understand. I can depend on God, who knows and sees and understands all things! Let’s sing this song to God that says, ‘I have decided, I will depend on You.’ Here we go!

**Video: “What I Choose”**

**Video: Theme Loop**

“God is so, so good to us. It’s true! When we put our trust in God, we have the kind of hope that nothing in this world can take away. No matter what tomorrow brings, we can be sure that God will be with us. Let’s worship God together!

**Video: “Hope Is Alive”**

**Video: Theme Loop**

“I am so thankful for the hope we have in God. That’s worth celebrating for sure! You can have a seat.”

## BIBLE STORY

### SETTING UP THE STORY

*Stand behind the table with the “emojis on sticks.”*

*Note: If you have a helper, you could have the helper stand behind the table with a printed script and hold up the emoji signs at the right times.*

**LEADER:** (*Hold up Bible.*) “In the Bible, we can find God’s Big Story. We can read how, out of nothing, God made an incredible world—and everything in it!

*Hold up the Earth emoji.*

“But then, Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sin entered the world.

*Hold up the sad emoji.*

“Still, God had a plan to bless the whole world through one family. God chose a man named Abraham, who had a son named Isaac . . . who had TWIN sons named Jacob and Esau.

“If you were here last week, you heard how Jacob tricked his big brother, Esau, into trading away his

rights as the oldest son. Jacob also tricked his dad into giving him the blessing that his dad meant to give to Esau. As you might imagine, Esau was very angry about this.

*Hold up the angry emoji.*

“Esau was SO angry that Jacob ran away, out of fear for his life. And he stayed away for more than 20 years!”

*Hold up the shocked emoji.*

### **MIXED EMOTIONS**

**LEADER:** “During this time, Jacob had been living with his uncle, Laban. Jacob now had a big family of his own.

“One day, God spoke to Jacob. God said . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 31:3 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Go back to your father’s land and to your relatives. I will be with you.*

“Now if you were Jacob, you’d probably be feeling all kinds of things in this moment. First of all, you might be kind of excited about going home after so long.

*Hold up the excited emoji.*

“But at the same time, you might wonder if Esau would still be mad at you—even after all this time.

*Hold up the angry emoji.*

“Imagine it.

*Hold up the thinking emoji.*

“Would Esau still be angry?

*Hold up the angry emoji in one hand.*

“Or do you think he might have cooled down?

*Hold up the sunglasses emoji in the other hand.*

“Maybe you could actually hang out and be friends with Esau again! *(Pause.)* Or maybe not.

*Set down both emojis.*

“Jacob probably had lots of mixed feelings about all this. But he trusted God and set out with his whole family. When Jacob got close to home, he decided to play it safe. So he sent a messenger to Esau. In his message, Jacob told Esau that he had been staying with his uncle, Laban, and that he had lots of animals now. He told Esau, ‘I hope I can please you.’ *(Genesis 32:5, NIRV)*

“The messengers left with Jacob’s message. Then they returned, bringing some shocking news for

Jacob.

*Hold up the shocked emoji.*

“Esau was coming to meet Jacob . . . with 400 men!”

*Hold up the REALLY shocked emoji.*

## THE GIFTS

**LEADER:** “Four hundred men does not sound like a welcoming party. Four hundred men sounds like . . . an army! Jacob must have been SO worried.

*Hold up the worried emoji.*

“Jacob separated his family and his herds into two groups. He figured that if Esau attacked one group, the other group could escape. But then, Jacob did something a lot more helpful. He remembered to talk to God.

*Hold up the praying hands emoji.*

“Jacob prayed.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 32:9-11 (NIRV) and read.*

*“You are the God of my grandfather Abraham. You are the God of my father Isaac. Lord, you are the one who said to me, ‘Go back to your country and your relatives. Then I will give you success.’ . . . Please save me from the hand of my brother Esau.*

“Jacob remembered God’s promises. And he decided to show that he came in peace by sending a little gift to Esau. Well . . . maybe it wasn’t such a ‘little’ gift.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 32:14-15. As you read, hold up the different animal emojis (goat, sheep, camel, cow, donkey).*

*“He chose 200 female goats and 20 male goats. He chose 200 female sheep and 20 male sheep. He chose 30 female camels with their little ones. He chose 40 cows and ten bulls. And he chose 20 female donkeys and ten male donkeys.*

“Whoa—what a gift!

*Hold up the shocked emoji.*

“Jacob told his servants to tell Esau that the animals were a gift from his brother, and that Jacob was coming behind them. Jacob hoped Esau would be so happy with the gifts that he wouldn’t be angry when he saw Jacob.”

*Hold up the angry emoji.*

## THE MEETING

**LEADER:** “Jacob sent his whole family ahead, across the river, figuring that Esau wouldn’t hurt them.

Then Jacob spent the night alone, wrestling with God. Literally. But that's a story for another time!

"In the morning, Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, with 400 men!

*Hold up the worried emoji.*

"This time, Jacob didn't hide behind his family or his gifts. He went on ahead.

*Hold up the grimace emoji.*

"As Jacob got close to Esau, he bowed down to the ground—not once, not twice, but seven times!

*Move the grimace emoji to "bow down" seven times.*

"Jacob probably figured Esau was about to come after him. But instead, Esau ran and HUGGED Jacob!

*Hold up the REALLY shocked emoji.*

"Both brothers cried with joy.

*Hold up the happy tears emoji.*

"After all that time, their family was reunited. Jacob introduced Esau to his family. Listen to what Jacob and Esau said to each other next.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 33:8-10 (NirV) and read.*

*"Esau asked, 'Why did you send all those herds I saw?'*

*'I hoped I could do something to please you,' Jacob replied.*

*But Esau said, 'I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself.'*

*'No, please!' said Jacob. 'If I've pleased you, accept this gift from me. Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God. You have welcomed me so kindly.'"*

*Hold up the shocked emoji, the happy tears emoji, and the excited emoji, all at once.*

*Set down the emojis and move in front of the table as you wrap up.*

**Video: Bible Story**

**Video: Theme Loop**

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** “It makes sense that Jacob was worried about what Esau might do to him. But at the same time, Jacob knew that God was with him. And it turned out that Jacob didn’t have to worry, because Esau was overjoyed to see his brother again!

*Reach back and hold up the worried emoji.*

“It’s easy for us to worry about things that never happen, or worry about things that might go wrong.

*Set down the worried emoji.*

“In those times, we don’t have to let our worries overwhelm us. We can still trust God and believe that God is in control.

“Let’s remember this.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] “You can trust God even when you’re worried.**

“Right now, let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

**Video: Theme Loop**

## PRAY

**LEADER:** “Dear God, thank You for this reminder that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** You were with Jacob when he was worried about seeing Esau . . . and You’re with us when we feel worried, too. Even in those times when we don’t know what will happen next, we can trust that You are with us and You have a plan for us. Please help each of us in here trust You, even when we feel worried. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## CLOSER

**LEADER:** “Can you imagine what Jacob must have been feeling when God told him it was time to go home? Even after 20 years away, Jacob was obviously worried about what Esau would do after all that had happened between them. But even though Jacob was concerned about his brother’s reaction, he obeyed God and trusted that God would be with him.

“In the end, Esau forgave Jacob and welcomed him!

**SLIDE: God’s Big Story Timeline**

**SLIDE: Week 4 Timeline Image**

*If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.*

“You and I will feel worried sometimes. It happens to all of us. But that doesn’t mean we can’t still trust God at the same time.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “You can trust God even when you’re worried. Say that with me.”

**LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line]** “You can trust God even when you’re worried.”

**LEADER:** “Think about what Jacob did when he felt worried. Do you remember what he did? *(Pause for response.)* He PRAYED! He talked to God and asked God for help.

“Jesus did that, too. Jesus talked to God when He was about to go to the cross to die for our sins. Jesus knew what He had come to do, but He knew that what He was about to face would be terribly difficult. Still, Jesus trusted God and knew that God was with Him.

“You can talk to God, too. You can pray when you feel worried and trust that God will be with you, no matter what you’re facing. After all, **[Basic Truth]** you can trust God no matter what!

“That means you can trust God when you’ve studied REALLY hard for a test but you’re still worried that you won’t pass. You can trust that no matter what happens on that test, God will be with you. And God will never leave or desert you!

“Or maybe you have to get up and speak in front of a crowd, and you’re worried that you might mess up or forget the words. You can trust God. You can ask God to help you prepare and remember what you have to say. You can believe that God ALWAYS loves you, no matter how things go on stage.

“So no matter what you’re facing this week, remember that **[Bottom Line]** you can trust God even when you’re worried. I know I feel better just saying that out loud! Let’s head to Small Group now and talk about that some more together.”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**Video: Theme Loop**



