

LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

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)

Monthly Virtue: Grit—Refusing to give up when life gets hard

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme loop

OPENER

LEADER: "Hi, everyone! It's another exciting day at [your environment's name].

(Hold up Bible.) We've been making our way through God's Big Story, which isn't over yet. Not even close! In fact, we've been finding ourselves facing some pretty big cliffhangers lately, which is why I've brought some climbing gear along this month. You never know when you're going to need to show some grit!

"What IS grit?

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue

"Grit is refusing to give up when life gets hard.

Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme

"It takes grit to climb—that's for sure! I thought today we could do some training and take our climbing skills to the next level. That way we can keep going even when things get tough!

"If you look around, you'll see that I've set up some stations in the room with a challenge at each one. *(Reference the different stations.)* You'll work on your grip strength by jumping with heavy books. You'll work on your core strength with some planks and crunches. You'll test your balance with a bean bag walk. And you'll work on your arm strength with bicep curls.

"Here, I'll demonstrate each one.

Go through each station and quickly demonstrate how to do each challenge. (You can find details in the printable Climbing Course Challenge Setup Guide.)

“Okay, I think we’re about ready to get to work. Let’s divide into two teams, and each team will get a chance to go through the challenge course.

Divide the kids into two teams.

“Just to be clear, you can only start the next station once the person ahead of you moves along. We’ll stop the clock when the last person finishes the last station. The team with the best overall time, wins.

“Team A, you’re up!

AUDIO: Upbeat instrumental music

Use a phone timer or stopwatch to time each team as they go through the course. Remind the kids of the rules if necessary. Comment on the action and encourage the kids by praising their grit. Celebrate the winning team at the end.

Video (Media Package): Theme loop

“You all must feel ready to climb now! I’m impressed with your strength and endurance. That’s true grit in action! Let’s keep moving as we sing, dance, and worship God together.”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “You’ve all been showing some real grit when it comes to our climbing challenges so far. But what do we do when LIFE gets really hard, and it’s not a game? We can refuse to give up, because we can trust in God to get us through! Let’s sing this song and let everyone know that we’re never gonna give up!

Video: “*Never Gonna Give Up*”

Video (Media Package): *Theme loop*

“Check out these words from Psalms 91:1-2 (NIV).

“Whoever rests in the shadow of the Most High God will be kept safe by the Mighty One. I will say about the Lord, ‘He is my place of safety. He is like a fort to me. He is my God. I trust in him.’”

Video: “*I Run to You*”

Video (Media Package): *Theme loop*

“When life gets hard and we don’t know what to do, we don’t have to give up. We can run to God, every time! Let’s sing out and thank God because we **[Basic Truth] can trust God no matter what.**”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

If you’re using a Bible timeline on your wall, you can refer to it as you recap.

LEADER: (*Hold up Bible.*) “In the beginning, God created the world and everything in it—including people. But people turned away and broke their relationship with God.

“Still, God had a plan. God called a man named Abraham and his wife Sarah. God promised to bless the whole world through their family!

“Last week, we looked at what happened with one of Abraham’s great-grandkids, Joseph. Joseph was his father’s favorite son. But his brothers were so jealous that they sold Joseph to some traders who took him to Egypt. Joseph did well in Egypt and was even put in charge of the household where he was working. But then, Joseph was thrown into prison—even though he hadn’t done anything wrong. Talk about some major ups and downs!

“Still, through it all, God was with Joseph . . . and Joseph didn’t give up.”

PHARAOH’S DREAMS

LEADER: “With God’s help, Joseph had the ability to understand dreams and explain what they meant. Joseph had done this for a man that he met in prison—the pharaoh’s drink taster.

EXPLAIN WHAT A DRINK TASTER IS.

Hold up the goblet.

“Joseph gave this man the good news that he was about to get his job back. Joseph asked the drink taster to talk to the pharaoh when he got out of prison and to try to get HIM out of prison, too.

Set the goblet on the table.

“Do you think the drink taster remembered to do that? *(Pause for response.)* Nope. He completely forgot about Joseph . . . until two whole years later! You see, Pharaoh, the ruler of the land, had two strange dreams that he couldn't explain.

“FINALLY, the drink taster remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him. Pharaoh called for Joseph and asked if he could explain what those strange dreams meant. It must have been a serious shock for Joseph to be pulled out of prison after such a long time and be marched right into the palace!

“These dreams Pharaoh had were kind of crazy. Let me read them to you from the Bible. Here's the first one.

SLIDE: Pharaoh's First Dream

Open the Bible to Genesis 41:1-4 (NirV) and read.

“In his dream, [Pharaoh] was standing by the Nile River. Seven cows came up out of the river. They looked healthy and fat. They were eating some of the tall grass growing along the river. After them, seven other cows came up out of the Nile. They looked ugly and skinny. They were standing beside the other cows on the riverbank. The ugly, skinny cows ate up the seven cows that looked healthy and fat. Then Pharaoh woke up.

“Whoa. That's pretty wild. Let me read about Pharaoh's OTHER dream.

Open the Bible to Genesis 41:5-7 (NirV) and read.

SLIDE: Pharaoh's Second Dream

“In that dream, seven heads of grain were growing on one stem. They were healthy and good. After them, seven other heads of grain came up. They were thin and dried up by the east wind. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up. It had been a dream.

SLIDE: Theme Background

“You can see why Pharaoh was so alarmed by these strange dreams! When he asked Joseph to tell him what the dreams meant, Joseph told Pharaoh that HE couldn't do it—but God could!

“Sure enough, God gave Joseph the meaning of the pharaoh's dreams. Joseph told the pharaoh that God was showing him what was to come. First, there would be seven good years with plenty of food for everyone.

Pick up the paper grocery bag and dump all the play food onto the table.

"But then, there would be seven years WITHOUT enough food.

Swipe all the play food off the table into the empty prop box.

"A terrible famine was coming! So Joseph told Pharaoh to look for a wise, understanding man to take charge and store some of the food in the good years. That way they would have food to use later."

JOE'S JOB

LEADER: "The pharaoh could see that God had given Joseph the ability to interpret his dreams. So he decided to put Joseph in charge of the palace and storing up food for the people.

"Wow! Think back to all the awful things that had happened to Joseph along the way. Now suddenly, he was second in command of the whole land of Egypt!

Video : BIBLE STORY (Story Lab)

Video (Media Package): Theme loop

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: "Then Joseph hugged his brothers and wept. You heard me, everyone, group hug! Group cry! *(Pause for response.)*

"Joseph FORGAVE his brothers. He told them to return to Canaan and bring Jacob and the rest of their families to live in Egypt, where they would have enough food.

"And that's exactly what happened! Joseph's entire family packed up and traveled to Egypt. Joseph finally saw his father Jacob again. The whole family settled in a place called Goshen and had enough to eat through the rest of the famine. The end! *(Pause.)* Except that it wasn't REALLY the end. God's story was still continuing then, just like it's still continuing today!

"Joseph held on through some crazy ups and downs in his life, because he trusted God. He believed that God had a bigger story—even if he couldn't always see it.

"Joseph held on through some difficult times. But during all those difficult times, God was working out something amazing. We can look at how God worked in Joseph's story and trust that God is at work in OUR lives, too.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

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

CLOSER

LEADER: “It’s really cool how God had a bigger story in mind for Joseph, through all the ups and downs of his life. In the end, God made sure that Joseph was able to save his whole family.

“And there’s more! Hundreds of years later, Jesus was born into Joseph’s family line. And because Jesus, God’s Son, died on the cross, we can be forgiven. Talk about being part of a bigger story!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Hold on because there’s a bigger story. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Hold on because there’s a bigger story.”

LEADER: “We can hold on and trust that God is at work in our lives, too. God can see the bigger story, even if we can’t. God knows how things will be made right in the end.

“There may be something going on in your life that seems so big right now. Like maybe you’re super-nervous about starting something new or passing a test at school that seems impossible. I know I’m having to hold on right now because . . . *(share a personal, age-appropriate example from your own life, if you have one)*. No matter what you or I face, though, we can trust God. That will help us hold on and face our challenges with GRIT.

Video (Media Package): Theme loop

OFFERING

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for the life and story of Joseph. We can see how You worked in his life in a big way! We can imagine there were times when Joseph thought he couldn’t hold on, but then he kept going because he knew that You were with him. Thank You for being with us, too, and for allowing us to be a part of Your story. Help each of us to **[Bottom Line]** hold on because there’s a bigger story. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“I love talking about God’s story with all of you. And the story isn’t over! Let’s head to Small Group and talk some more about Joseph and his part in God’s story!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Climbing accessories for Leader to wear/carry
- Climbing Challenge Course Setup Guide (for reference), printed from the LG Assets PDF
- Posterboard signs for each station (optional): Grip Strength, Core Plank, Bean Bag Balance, Crunches, Bicep Curls
- Masking tape
- Two thick reference books
- Several bean bags
- Two small dumbbells (5 pounds or less)
- Phone timer or stopwatch
- Week 2 Timeline Image, printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
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