



## WEEK FIVE – AUGUST 2025 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *Joseph | Genesis 37; 39-45*

**Conversation Starter:** *When has something bad turned into something good?*

**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)*

**Insight:** *Faith in God’s Son – I believe in Jesus and will continue to trust Him even when life doesn’t make sense*

**Application:** *Faith – Trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see*

**Series Overview:** Every story has a beginning. As we explore Creation, the Fall and other pivotal moments in the origin of our faith, kids will discover that not only did God create everything, but even after people chose to go their own way, God had a plan to restore us. We can see how God faithfully began to fulfill that plan in Abram’s call and in the lives of Jacob and Joseph—and we look forward to the fulfillment of that plan in Jesus. When kids see how God has worked in the past, they can grow in faith that our faithful God continues to work in and through each person who chooses to follow Jesus.

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**8:45 - 9:00 | 10:45 – 11:00 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY**

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**CONNECTION CENTERS**

*Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders*

**What You Need:** Game Room, Card Games + Art Room

**What You Do:**

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
  - **Before kids arrive, pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the true story of Joseph, a reminder that even when life feels tough or confusing, God is still at work! Reflect on a time you went through something tough and couldn't see how God was using it until later. Thank God for being faithful. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you communicate to kids they can trust God no matter what! Pray that your group would trust God with their big and small struggles. Pray that they would learn to look for how He is working even when life doesn't go as planned.**
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
  - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
    - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
  - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
  - Interact with preteens in their respective spaces (Game Room/Art Room/Board Games, etc.)
  - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them:
    - ***“What's one memory from this summer that you think you'll remember for a long time? Why is it so memorable”***
    - ***“If you could invent a new app or video game, what would it be called and what would it do”***

- *“What's one skill you're hoping to learn or improve this school year, either at school or outside of it”*
- *“What's one small thing that always makes you smile or brightens your day?”*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
  - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
    - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
  - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

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**9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | OPENING SMALL GROUP**

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## **OPENING ACTIVITY**

**What You Need:** Empty water bottle, hydrogen peroxide, yeast, warm water, food coloring, liquid dish soap, small bowl, cooking sheet, funnel, plastic tablecloth

### **What You Do:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Cover the workspace with the plastic tablecloth.
- Place all the supplies on the tablecloth.
- Gather the kids around so that everyone can see.
- Ask: “What do you think will happen if we mix these ingredients together?”
  - *NOTE: Some kids may guess an explosion. Point out that none of these ingredients seem very powerful on their own.*
- Place the bottle on the cookie sheet. In a small bowl, mix the warm water and the yeast.
- Use the funnel to pour hydrogen peroxide, dish soap, and 5-6 drops of food coloring into the bottle. Swirl it around to mix.
  - *NOTE: Consider letting the kids help you with the steps.*

- Pour the yeast mixture into the bottle (using the funnel), then step back! Watch as foam overflows from the bottle.

**Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- Some kids may prefer to pour, stir, or observe. Give them choices like: “Do you want to help pour or watch the reaction?”

**What You Say:**

“If you’ve never done that experiment before, you might have been a bit surprised at the way all of those ingredients reacted to each other. *[Transition]* This reminds me of how life surprises us too. In today’s Bible Story, we’ll meet someone who faced a lot of tough surprises. But the biggest surprise was the way God used all of it for good! Let’s go find out more.”

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**9:15 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP**

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Though Jacob had twelve sons, he chose a favorite: Joseph. When Joseph’s dreams got him into hot water with his brothers, they sold him to be enslaved in Egypt. There, Jacob gained the respect of Potiphar and was put in charge of his household—until he was lied about and thrown in prison. Still, Joseph trusted God. He worked hard and put in charge of the other prisoners. At last, Joseph was called to interpret a dream for Pharaoh, who was so impressed that he elevated Joseph to second in the kingdom. Years later when Joseph’s brother came to Egypt for food during a famine, Joseph forgave them and invited the whole family to Egypt.

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**9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP**

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**TAKE A SNAPSHOT**

[Live for God | Application Activity]

## What You Need: Crayons

### What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Select one kid to go first.
- Instruct them to place a crayon between each of the fingers of their right hand, with the crayons pointing up.
- Explain how to play:
  - The kid going first turns to the kid next to them and says, “My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I can trust God when . . . .”
  - The kids are to shake hands in a way that transfers the crayons from the fingers of the first kid to the fingers of the second kid.
  - Continue sharing about trusting God and passing the crayons around the circle. If a crayon falls, the kid is to pick it up and keep going.
  - The goal is for the crayon to make it around the circle.
- To make it a race, split the kids into two teams and see which team can pass the crayons around their circle first.
- Join the groups together (if needed), and expand the conversation by asking:
  - Why should those who know Jesus view tough times differently than those who don't?
  - When has God used something tough in your life to accomplish something good?
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time when God surprisingly used something hard in your life to accomplish something good.)***

### Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Consider the needs of your group. If holding multiple crayons is difficult, adjust the number of crayons they pass.
- If kids in your group have sensory sensitivities, consider passing a small ball instead. Some kids might not like the feeling of crayon rubbing between their fingers.

## **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION**

### **[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]**

**What You Need:** “Story Sound Effects” Activity Page; “Joseph’s Story” Activity Page

#### **What You Do:**

- Divide the kids into four teams.
- Give each team one card from the “Joseph’s Story” Activity Page and a set of six cards from the “Story Sound Effects” Activity Page.
- Instruct each team to read through their “Joseph’s Story” Activity Page card.
- Direct the teams to use the “Story Sound Effects” Activity Page cards to write down six different sounds or short phrases to place in their part of the story wherever they like.
- For example:
  - *“Joseph’s brothers were angry and jealous of him.” (GRR!)*
  - *“Joseph went to jail for something he did not do.” (SLAM!)*
  - *“Joseph forgave his brothers.” (SAY WHAT??)*
- Once everyone is finished, invite the team with the first card to read their part of the story using the sound effects as they read.
- Continue until all four parts have been read.
- Ask:
  - What do you think was the toughest thing Joseph went through? Why?
  - Tell us about a tough time God used to accomplish something good.
  - How do difficult situations build our faith? How might they make us doubt?
  - What would you tell someone who’s going through a tough time but really wants to trust God?
- Remind kids that even when life is messy and hard, God is still with us! He never leaves us, even when things get tough. God wants us to come to Him when we are going through hard things.

#### **Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- If a kid prefers not to read aloud, allow them to hold up the sound effect signs for their team as the story is told.
- Give the kids time to process and think as you ask the discussion questions.
- Some kids focus better when they move! Consider letting the teams act out their part of the story while they read it!

## **MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER**

### **[Pray To God | Prayer Activity]**

**What You Need:** Whiteboard; Dry erase marker

#### **What You Do:**

- I Gather the kids in a circle.
- Review the Bottom Lines from this month. See if any kids can recite them.
  - *You can trust God no matter what.*
  - *You can trust God even when you don't understand.*
  - *You can trust that God has a plan.*
  - *You can trust that God is with you.*
  - *You can trust God when things get tough.*
- Write the following prompt on the whiteboard with a dry-erase marker:
  - *"I can trust God because \_\_\_\_\_."*
- Invite each kid to repeat the sentence and fill in the blank. Encourage them to think about what they discovered this month and what they know about who God is.
- Demonstrate by going first.
  - *I can trust God because He is good.*
  - *I can trust God because God has a plan.*
  - *I can trust God because God does what He says He will.*
  - *I can trust God because God knows everything.*
- As you close, ask if any kids would like to pray for the group.
- Close in prayer.

#### **Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- If kids prefer not to speak aloud, encourage them to use index cards and a pen to write down their statement or draw a picture that represents it.
- Write prayer examples on a dry-erase board that kids can reference or copy onto their paper.