

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



TRUSTING GOD IN TRICKY TIMES

Genesis 37; 39:1-6 Joseph is sold

It is often easier to say something than actually do it, such as trusting God in tricky times. The Bible is full of stories of God's people who have done just that. Through sharing their stories and our own they can help us understand the nature of God. They can reassure us as we know there are people who have shared similar experiences so we can support each other and keep our attention fixed on God.

Today we will start to discover the story of Joseph and the way he trusted God throughout everything he faced. Joseph's life was turned upside down. Sometimes in life things may change in a difficult way, but these experiences can help us grow stronger and come closer to God.

Each child will need:

→ Art materials, pens/pencils and paper – see Action It section

You will need:

→ A slide showing all these characters on it: The Grinch; Shaggy and Scooby; SpongeBob Squarepants; Belle; Phineas and Ferb; Ariel; Dory; Winnie the Pooh

Start It

Screen share: all the cartoon characters listed.

Read out the following questions and ask the group to choose the perfect cartoon character to trust.

Ask: Who would you trust to ...

1. spoil Christmas? *The Grinch*
2. solve a mystery? *Shaggy and Scooby*
3. make you the perfect crabby patty? *SpongeBob Squarepants*
4. recommend the perfect book for you to read? *Belle*
5. design and build a rocket in the back garden? *Phineas and Ferb*
6. teach you how to swim? *Ariel*
7. teach you how to keep swimming? *Dory*
8. find honey? *Winnie the Pooh*

💡 **Say:** All these cartoon characters can be trusted to be there for you in certain situations, but you wouldn't trust them at other times! That's a bit like people. Although we often try our best, we can't always be trusted to be there for everyone all the time and sometimes we let each other down.

💡 **Say:** God is the only one that we can trust no matter what. He can be trusted when things are going great and when we are uncertain what is going to happen next.

Sing It

🗨 **Say:** In the Old Testament of the Bible there is a book full of wise words called Proverbs. Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) says:

‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.’

🗨 **Say:** So let's sing and clap while learning to trust God during difficult times.

‘Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust (Hand Motions)’ by Seeds Family Ministry (2 mins 56 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teCBUFF7zvA>

Tell It

Ask:

- ➔ What does it mean when you trust someone?
- ➔ Who do you trust?
- ➔ Are you someone who can be trusted? How do you know?

🗨 **Say:** In today's story we meet Joseph. Joseph didn't always get on with his brothers, but he thought he could trust them to look out for him. However, his life was turned upside down when his brothers' jealousy got the better of them. So who could Joseph trust now?

Video

In the clip we hear Joseph's story taken from the first book of the Bible, Genesis. We meet his family and discover that Israel, Joseph's Dad, was also known as Jacob. You might find that different Bibles use different names for Joseph's Dad, but they're talking about the same person.

Joseph and his coat (Genesis 37) by Saddleback Kids (3mins 17secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnlqKPIZQzI>

Ask:

- ➔ Why do you think Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him?
- ➔ Do you understand how they felt? If so, why?

🗨 **Say:** Jacob (Israel) thought that the brothers could be trusted and so sent Joseph with them. Joseph must have trusted his brothers as well, because he thought it was safe to go.

Ask:

- ➔ What did the brothers do to Joseph when he arrived with them?
- ➔ How do you think Joseph felt when he realised his brothers couldn't be trusted?

🗨 **Say:** Joseph was sold as a slave to a group of Ishmaelites. As he remembered all those dreams about his family bowing down to him, he must have felt very confused about what it all meant. What was God up to? No one would bow down to a slave like Joseph. He had to choose to trust God even when he didn't know how life was going to turn out.

Screen share: Genesis 39:1-6 (ICB).

‘Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar was an officer to the king of Egypt. He was the captain of the palace guard. He bought Joseph from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man. He lived in the house of his master, Potiphar the Egyptian.

‘Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph. He saw that the Lord made Joseph successful in everything he did. So Potiphar was very happy with Joseph. He allowed Joseph to be his personal servant. He put Joseph in charge of the house. Joseph was trusted with everything Potiphar owned. So Joseph was put in charge of the house. He was put in charge of

everything Potiphar owned. Then the Lord blessed the people in Potiphar's house because of Joseph. And the Lord blessed everything that belonged to Potiphar, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything he owned. Potiphar was not concerned about anything, except the food he ate.'

🗨️ **Say:** Earlier we sang the words of Proverbs 3:5-6.

Discuss

➔ What can we learn from Joseph about trusting God instead of relying on our own understanding?

Action It

Ask the children to create their own art work based around Proverbs 3:5-6 to remind them to trust in God when things get tricky. They can put it up on their wall to remind them of the choices Joseph made.

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** Trusting God can be tricky, especially when we don't know what is going to happen. Imagine what Joseph felt like as he travelled with the Ishmaelites, not knowing where he was going. Joseph decided to trust that God would take care of him, and we can decide to do exactly the same.

Dear God,

Thank you that no matter what we are facing, you can always be trusted. When it's difficult to see what is going to happen next, help us to trust in you instead of trying to work things out for ourselves. Thank you for always being there for us.

AMEN.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.