

Basic Truth: God loves me.

Key Question: Who has a plan for you?

Bottom Line: God has a plan for me.

Memory Verse: *For I know (point to head) the plans I have for you, (march) says (hands to mouth like yelling) the Lord, (point up) Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT). (Hold hands open like a book.)*

Bible Story: God's plan has good things for me to do. Joseph Saves the Grain • **Genesis 41**

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that kids would start to see how God's love can change everything. Ask God to encourage the kids to focus on showing His love to others throughout the week. Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Colorsheet

Activity #1 - Bedtime

What You Need: Several plush animals, blankets, and books

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the plush animals, blankets, and books, in your activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to put the plush animals to bed. They can "read" a bedtime story, hug them goodnight, and tuck them in. After they have tucked them in have them pretend to sleep as well. When they wake up talk about the dreams from the Bible story.

After the Activity: Gather all the items for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: Friends, do you know what time it is? It's bedtime! Let's put our plush friends to sleep. You can read a bedtime story, give them a big hug, and tuck them in with a blanket. You might also sing a sweet song before they go to sleep. All right now that our friends are tucked in let's sleep too *(have children pretend to sleep)*.

After the Activity: Sometimes, when we sleep, we have dreams. Did anyone have any dreams?

Those are all really cool dreams.

In our story today while Pharaoh was asleep, he had a dream. The dream had cows in it. What do cows say? *(Pause.)* That's right! Cows say, 'MOOOO!' The dream also had grain in it. We can use grain to make bread. Let's pretend to eat some yummy bread. *(Pretend to eat bread with the children.)* Nom-nom-nom. I love bread!

Pharaoh didn't know what his dream about cows and grain meant, so he asked Joseph to help him. Joseph told Pharaoh that his dreams were from God. God wanted him to start saving lots of grain so all the people would have enough food to eat later. Pharaoh was so happy, that he put Joseph in charge of all of Egypt so he could help save the grain. Everything happened just like Joseph said because he had trusted God's plan.

After the Activity: God had good things planned for Joseph to do. And because Joseph trusted God's plan, he was able to save lots and lots of people! God loves you, and has good things planned for you to do, too. That's right! God has a plan for you! Who has a plan for you? **[Bottom Line]** God has a plan for me.

Small Group Time

Small Group Leader (SGL): It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend we're Joseph's helpers, and we're carrying big baskets of grain like this (*demonstrate*) while we walk to our small group spot. Pick up your basket of grain and follow me! (*Pretend you're carrying a heavy basket of grain as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

Whew! We made it. Let's put these baskets of grain down. Okay, let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) Joseph trusted that God had a plan for him while he was in jail. He looked for good things to do, and he did them, like when he helped the other men in jail. When Pharaoh heard about Joseph, he wanted Joseph to help him, too! Before long, Joseph was helping Pharaoh save grain for all of Egypt, so they would have enough food.

It was important that Joseph trusted God had a plan for him, even when bad things happened. It's what helped Joseph see the good things God had planned for him to do.

The Bible verse we are learning will help us remember that God has a plan for you, and **[Bottom Line]** God has a plan for me, too! It says . . .

'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, Jeremiah 29:11. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*) Let's stand up and say that together with the motions.

Children and SGL: 'For I know (*point to head*) the plans I have for you (*march*),' says (*hands to mouth like yelling*) the Lord (*point up*), Jeremiah 29:11, **(NLT)**. (*Open your hands like a book.*)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: Fantastic! (*Fist bump.*) God loves you, and He has a plan for you. Who has a plan for you?

Children and SGL: **[Bottom Line]** God has a plan for me!

SGL: That's right! And God's plan has good things for [child's name] to do and good things for [child's name] to do and . . . (*continue with each child*). Okay, it's time to sit down, write in our prayer journal, and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

Since we're talking about God's plan for us to do good things, I think we should make a list of good things we can do. Sound good? (*Pause.*) Great! When I say your name, I want you to tell me one good thing you can do, and I'll write down what you say in our prayer journal.

(Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

SGL: This is a great list! We can use it when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*)

Prayer

SGL: Dear God, thank You for (*name each child*). Thank You for all of the good things You have planned for them to do. Help us look for good thing to do, even when bad things happen. Good things like (*read the list the children made*). We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen.