



# WEEK 3

## ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



### BIG IDEA

Heroes make wise choices.

### THE BIBLE

**Joseph is Held Captive:** Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1-23 (James 4:17, 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7)

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | A Tangled Mess
- **ACTIVITY** | Don't Get Caught in a Web
- **QUESTION** | What are some webs we can get caught in?
- **STORY** | Share a Story
- **THE BIG IDEA** | Heroes make wise choices.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Genesis 37:12-36; 39:20-23
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Types of Metal
- **ACTIVITY** | Find the Good
- **ACTIVITY** | Doing The Right Thing
- **SCRIPTURE** | James 4:17
- **ACTIVITY** | Unravel the Web
- **PRAYER** | Ask Jesus For Help
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Hebrews 11:1; Isaiah 40:31

## SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
  - What is one wise choice Joseph made?
  - Is it tough to resist temptation when someone tries to get you to do something wrong?
  - Have you ever been treated unfairly? If so, how did you feel?
  - What are some ways we can grow in courage and strength to stand for justice like Joseph?
- **SCRIPTURE** | 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7
- **ACTIVITY** | The Game of Choices
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Hebrews 11:1; Isaiah 40:31



# WEEK 3

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

Heroes make wise choices.

### THE BIBLE

**Joseph is Held Captive:** Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1-23 (James 4:17, 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

### ACTIVITY | A Tangled Mess

- Welcome! This week, we're talking about how heroes need to make wise choices!
- Spider-Man slings webs that trap other people, but he never gets stuck in his own webs. Let's try to untangle a web together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can do this as one big group or in smaller groups. Have the kids stand in a circle. With their right hand, each person should reach across the circle to hold someone else by their extended right hand. It cannot be the person standing directly next to them. Repeat with the left hand. Now, everyone should be holding someone else by both hands. Tell them to untangle themselves without letting go of anyone's hand. They can step over and under others, roll on the floor, or whatever else they need to do as long as they don't let go.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Let your kids with special needs play with different colored and textured balls of yarn during this activity. You can even help them tangle and untangle it.*
- **Did any group succeed in getting untangled?** What a mess! No one wants to get tangled up in anything.

### ACTIVITY | Don't Get Caught in a Web

- We talked about Spider-Man capturing villains in his webs. The villains get stuck and can't move. They're trapped!
- Sin is anything we do that isn't what God wants us to do. Sins like lying can be like sticky spiderwebs. When you tell one lie, you start telling other lies to cover up the first one, and before you know it,

you're trapped in a web of lies. See if you can avoid getting caught in this web!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have your group sit in a circle and give them several rolls of yarn. Tell them to toss the yarn from person to person, with each person holding onto the yarn where they get it, creating a web. Don't let it get too intricate; people need to be able to walk through it. Then, have the kids take turns trying to walk through the web without touching the strings.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Have them close their eyes and let a partner guide them through the web, either using their voice, or by holding their hand.

### QUESTION | What are some webs we can get caught in?

- **What are some ways in our lives we can get caught in a web?** It could be any poor choice, a bad behavior, disobeying our parents, lying, selfish attitudes, or anything else that traps us.
- We don't have to stay trapped in a web forever! Jesus is ready to help us get unstuck! We'll learn about how Joseph got into a bad place, but he remained honest and did the right thing.

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### STORY | Share a Story

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a leader share about a time when they felt they were being treated unfairly, and how they reacted to this. Try to think of an experience the kids would relate to, such as being accused of something they didn't do or getting in trouble for something they didn't do.
- When we get in trouble or get accused for something we didn't do, we have to choose to do the right thing and have a good attitude. We're going to learn how Joseph reacted when he was accused of something he didn't do.

### THE BIG IDEA | Heroes make wise choices.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
  - Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
  - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
  - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
  - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **Heroes make wise choices.**

### BIBLE STORY | Genesis 37:12-36; 39:20-23

- Last week, we read about Joseph getting a special gift from his father. It made his brothers really jealous. Let's read from the Bible to see what happened next.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- Joseph's brothers became jealous when he told them about the dream where they bowed down to him. **What did they do to him?** They planned to kill him, but instead, they threw him into a big hole, which was a well. But he didn't stay in the well. **What happened next?** His brothers sold him into slavery.

- **Do you remember what happened to Joseph's robe?** The brothers soaked it in goat's blood and took it to Joseph's father, pretending like Joseph was killed by an animal. His father was very sad.
- When Joseph was sold to the merchants, he ended up as a servant in the home of a man named Potiphar. Potiphar trusted Joseph and put him in charge of everything, and things were looking up for Joseph. Then, Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to sin with her, and he refused. She got mad at him and lied to get him in trouble. Potiphar had Joseph thrown in prison.
- But even in prison, God was with Joseph. Soon, the prison guards started to like Joseph.
- Joseph needed great courage to face these injustices. **Where do you think his courage came from?**
- Joseph made wise choices and did the right thing, even when people tried to get him to sin. He refused to sin and chose to do the right thing and be honest, even if it meant he would get in trouble.
- Integrity is standing up for what's right and doing the right thing at all times no matter what.
- You can make wise choices, have integrity, and do the right thing, too!

### OBJECT LESSON | Types of Metal

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hold up a piece of aluminum foil and a metal or steel tool, such as a wrench.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Gather several different types of items made of metal, and a scale, and let the kids weigh the objects and discuss with the group what they are used for in daily life. Ask if someone could bend or break a metal tool, such as a wrench and let them try. Do the same with the aluminum foil.*
- **What do you think these two things are made out of?** They're made from the same base material, metal! The aluminum foil is very thin metal. This tool is also made from metal. Which one is stronger? The tool! **When something hard puts pressure on the aluminum foil, what do you think will happen?** Let's try having two people pull it and see what happens. It breaks!
- **When life puts pressure on you and bad things happen to you, will you break like the aluminum foil? Will you give in to temptation and make the wrong choices? Or will you let God give you super strength, like this steel, to help you stand up for what's right and make good choices?**

### ACTIVITY | Find the Good

- **Do you think it was hard for Joseph to find the good in the bad situations? Do you think it's hard to have a good attitude and do the right thing?** When we can't see what's coming and don't see the big picture, it can be hard to do the right thing and make the right choices. Let's play a game to see how hard it can be to find the good when we can't see the full picture. The ping pong balls represent the good things that happen to us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Spread out five ping pong balls on the floor of your playing space. Have the group of kids make a circle on the floor around your playing space. Choose two kids to play: one will wear a blindfold and get on their hands and knees on the floor while their partner gives them verbal cues. Give them one minute to collect five ping pong balls. You can play as one large group or with multiple groups racing.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Have them write G for "Good" on five ping pong balls, and spread out fifteen ping pong balls total, then blindfold them and have them try to find as many of the "G" ping pong balls as they can, with a partner's help.*

- **Was it hard to find the good when you were blindfolded? Did it help to have your partner's voice giving you direction?** Sometimes, it's hard to find the good things in our lives when we can't see the full picture and don't understand what's happening, but God gives us guidance and helps us if we listen to Him.

### **NOW WHAT?** *What does God want us to do about it?*

#### **ACTIVITY | Doing The Right Thing**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read aloud the below scenarios and have the kids give a thumbs up if the person handled the situation in a wise way or a thumbs down if they did not.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Modify the scenarios to include examples that would apply to their lives, and ask them how they could show wisdom in each scenario.*
- *Tommy's brother was asking him too many questions about a game he was playing, so Tommy yelled at his brother to get out of his room. (Thumbs down)*
- *There was a boy playing on the playground alone, so Josh went over to ask him to play with his friends. (Thumbs up)*
- *Mary saw her mom left \$5 on the kitchen counter, so she took it to buy an extra candy bar at lunch. (Thumbs down)*
- *Julia decided she wanted to wear her sister's shirt to school even though her sister said no, so she waited until she left and took her shirt anyway. (Thumbs down)*
- **How could these situations be different using wisdom?**
- **Do you ever have a hard time making the wise choice?**
- In every situation, we always have a choice to make.

#### **SCRIPTURE | James 4:17**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and read it!*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Give them paper and pens and have them make a list of all the choices they make in a day. Then ask them how they can know what is wise when they're making choices throughout their day.*
- When we read the Bible or come to church, we learn about what Jesus wants and doesn't want us to do. We can make the wise choice or we can make a choice that is not what God wants.
- **What does it feel like to disappoint someone we love? What does it feel like when we make an unwise choice?** Sometimes, it can be hard to make wise choices because the world tells us we don't need to make the wise choice. But God gives us direction and He always wants what is best for us!

#### **ACTIVITY | Unravel the Web**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Call up three pairs of kids and give them each a spool of yarn. When you say, "Go," have them take turns tossing it back and forth to unravel it. As they are tossing, they have to say one word from the Big Idea each time before they can toss it to their partner. They'll go back and forth saying the Big Idea over and over, one word at a time (Heroes make wise choices). The first team to completely unravel their yarn wins.*

- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Let them do this activity with the help of a buddy, or assign them a word to say each time they get the yarn.*

### PRAYER | Ask Jesus For Help

- Jesus helps us make the wise choice if we ask Him for guidance.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the kids to close their eyes and think of something they need help knowing what to do.*
- We can ask God for help any time we need it. Let's pray together and ask God to give us wisdom to make wise choices in the situations we're thinking of.
- **MEMORY VERSES |** Hebrews 11:1; Isaiah 40:31
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then, work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.*

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **What is one wise choice Joseph made?**
- **Is it tough to resist temptation when someone tries to get you to do something wrong?**
- **Have you ever been treated unfairly? If so, how did you feel?**
- **What are some ways we can grow in courage and strength to stand for justice like Joseph?**

### SCRIPTURE | 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **Who faces temptation?**
- **What does it mean to submit ourselves to the Lord?**
- **How does God help us when we face temptation?**

### ACTIVITY | The Game of Choices

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Game of Choices printables and cut the cards apart (or let the kids help you think of and write down good choices and bad choices on index cards). Mix them up and put them in a stack in the middle. Have one kid read a card, and see who can be the first to say "Good choice" or "Bad choice." If it's a bad choice, they have to tell you what a good alternative choice would be in that situation.*

### MEMORY VERSES | Hebrews 11:1; Isaiah 40:31

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then, work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.*