



**The God Whose Plan  
Involves Suffering  
For groups meeting  
Nov 15- 21, 2015**

**Start with FREE PLAY [15 Minutes]**

Provide small manipulatives or board games if not outdoors

*Use **PROPS** in Treasure Chest to introduce each session of **the 5 W's**:*

*Using props helps kids engage and get into a weekly routine of knowing what comes next. Once a weekly routine is established, kids will know what to expect and therefore learn what is expected of them. Store props in treasure chest.*

**WELCOME [5 Minutes]**

Take wood box with questions from treasure chest. Pick & discuss 1 card per week

**WORSHIP [5 Minutes]**

Choose 2 Songs from Kidz 'n Groups CD provided. Play and sing.

YouTube links to motions are provided on CD cover if desired. Kids love motions!

**Pray to WIN [5 Minutes]**

Take the cross from the treasure chest. Read what is on the cross to remind kids that we should pray every day. Place nearby. (Step 1 is necessary if not previously done) **Step 1:** Say "We are going to pray and ask God to help us think of one person we know, who doesn't know Jesus." Then pray. Pass out the 'I PRAY' cards. Have kids write the name of the person that God brought to their mind. Have the group pray for Jesus to win the heart of each person by believing the gospel. Review what the gospel is if needed. Prayer time can be done as a group or by one person praying for all. **Step 2:** Pass cards with names (or a drawing of the person) out each week and pray for the people on the cards. Occasionally ask kids for updates on the person they are praying for. Collect the cards and store in envelope for future weeks.

**Treasure the WORD [10 Minutes]**

Show kids the Bible and Key. Read the sentence on front of the Treasure Chest. Encourage kids to read their Bible everyday. Teach young children weekly how to find the book, chapter and verse.

**Read:** Genesis 37:3-11

**Question:** How well can you remember your dreams? Do they make sense? Share a short story of your own experience with dreams and explain that some people can and some people can't remember them.

**Discussion:** In today's Bible story Joseph's family understood what Joseph's dream meant and they didn't like what they heard. In fact, Joseph's brothers were so mad about it, their anger caused them to sin. But God used a very, very bad thing and turned it around to be used as a very, very good thing. God used Joseph to save his family and many other people from starving because of a draught. (Explain those terms if necessary.) Let's read on so we can find out how the story unfolds.

## Treasure the **WORD** [10 Minutes] - continued

**Read:** Genesis 37:23-28

**Question 1:** Say what?! I've been mad at my sister before, but I would never think of throwing her in a pit and selling her. What do you think about what Joseph's brothers did to him?

**Read:** Genesis 39: 6b-23 ! (It's ok to change the words from 'lie with me' to 'kiss me.')

**Question 2:** Do you think it is better to sin and not get in trouble or do what is right and get in trouble? [Allow answers] Usually when we do what's right we don't get in trouble, but in our story today, Joseph got put in jail for doing what was right.

**Discuss:** But what we just read also tells us that whatever Joseph did, God made him successful. It is a little hard to understand, but this story shows us that even though the people in Joseph's life thought he was doing wrong, he was actually doing what was right and God blessed him and those around him because of it.

**Question 3:** Joseph had a choice to make. With his actions he could either choose to please a person or please God. Who would you rather please God or a person? Why?

**Activity:** **Sticky Hands / Materials needed:** Wide painters or duck tape, variety of small items  
Measure around the kids' hands and cut tape to fit. Place tape around one hand of each child, sticky side out. Have a tray with a variety of different household items on the tray such as paper clips, cotton balls, sequins, safety pins, cheerios, etc. Use a stopwatch or the timer on your phone or other device and give each child 10 seconds to pick up as many items with their sticky hand as they can. When each child has had a turn, count the items to see who has the most. Give every child that participated a small reward of some type for playing. Explain that sometimes in life we have to make choices without having a lot of time to think about. The best choice will be '*sticking with God*' and doing what he would want us to do.

**Finding the treasure in God's Word:** God does not promise us a life without suffering. But God's plans for us is always the best thing for us in the end. We need to be patient and trust Him with our lives. Joseph's brothers planned for Joseph to suffer, but in the end God used Joseph's suffering for good.

### **WORKS Challenge [10 Minutes]**

Kids will use Kindness Coins and choose to accept or decline the challenge each week to 'work for Jesus' by passing on what they have learned. Be stingy with the coins. Only give a kid a coin if he or she agrees to accept and follow through with the challenge. Start each week by asking the kids that took the challenge the week before to tell about what they did and who they gave the coin to. A challenge must be completed and a coin given to the recipient before a new challenge is accepted.

**Challenge:** Ask a friend or family member if they want to play 'sticky hands' with you. Ask them if they want to hear the story of Joseph's life from the Bible while you play the game. Then give that person the coin. Tell them they can pass it on, but only if they want to.

**End with FREE PLAY**

\*Lesson Coloring pages: found at [www.enewlife.com/ministries/small-groups/resources](http://www.enewlife.com/ministries/small-groups/resources)  
**Recommended DVD's:** Superbook or What's in the Bible or Outdoor Play