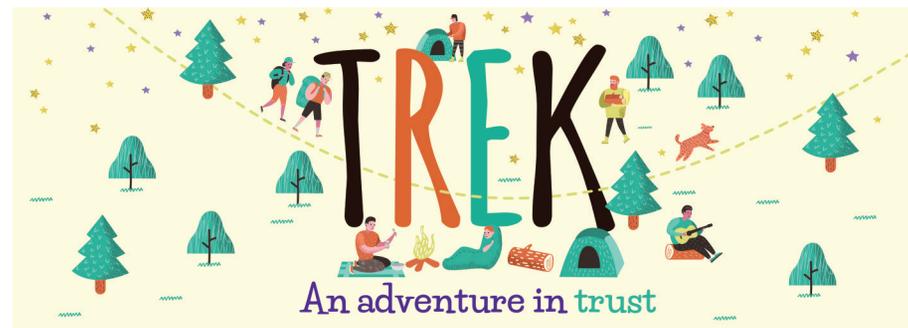


An adventure in trust

WEEK THREE

JOSEPH IN JAIL • GENESIS 40



An adventure in trust

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JOSEPH IN JAIL • GENESIS 40



SAY THIS:

WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, YOU CAN TRUST GOD IS WITH YOU.



REMEMBER THIS:

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart. Do not depend on your own understanding."

PROVERBS 3:5, NIV



DO THIS:



God's promises don't depend on us getting everything right. Jacob discovered he could trust God no matter what—even when he messed up. And the same is true for us. No matter what happens, no matter what we've done, we can depend on God to work it out in the end. Pray for each other, that you would trust God with the big things and the little things in your life this week.



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TRUST:

PUTTING YOUR CONFIDENCE IN SOMEONE YOU CAN DEPEND ON

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CHOOSING TO TRUST IN THE MOMENT

By Mike Tiemann

One of the things I admire the most about kids is the way they live in the moment. They don't have to be responsible for things like retirement plans, coordinating the calendar, or figuring out what's for dinner. That's one of the things I miss most about childhood.

Kids don't have control of any of those things. They have no choice but to trust. They're completely dependent on you for all those "adult things." Of course, those days of blind trust don't last forever. As kids grow and mature into adults, they move from dependence to independence—from reactivity to responsibility.

When we grow up, we have to take ownership. We feel like we have to take control . . . and that can make it a lot harder to trust. We don't like it when life surprises us and takes us out of the driver's seat. But it's not a question of if we'll get kicked out from time to time; it's a question of when. Those are the moments when it's most important for us to trust—for ourselves, and for our kids who are watching. We have full ownership of our actions, but at same time, we don't have to abandon the innocent trust that came so easily during childhood.

We might not see an easy solution to the problem. But even in the midst of

that tension, we can choose to open our hands and say, "I don't know what to do. But God, I trust You." It's nice when trust leads to a happy ending. I like it when I can show my kids that everything works out the way I hoped it would—because then I can easily point to God's faithfulness along the way. It's much harder to trust when things don't turn out the way I hoped, but even then, it's still important that I trust. But I think the decision to trust is the teachable moment . . . not the outcome.

When I feel out of control, I can still choose to trust God and believe that my life is in His hands. I don't have to wait until everything is fixed; I can be honest with my kids and let them see the emotions that I'm struggling with along the way. Our kids don't have a lot of control in their lives—yet. But maybe we can model for them what it looks like to trust, regardless of the outcome. When they grow up, they won't forget it.



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