TREE OF PROMISE

Memory Verse: ***"He remembered us when we were in trouble. His love continues forever." Psalms 136:23 (ICB)***
Big Idea: ***God's Promise: He will always remember you.***
Bible Story: ***Joseph in Prison | Genesis 40-41***

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

Memory Verse Game – Memory Verse Relay

- Divide kids into teams and form a straight line.
- The first player from each team will run to a board to write the first word of the memory verse.
- Then that kid will run back to tag the next person who will run to the board to write the next word in the verse.
- Continue playing until a team has completed the whole verse.
- ***Option for younger kids*** - Scouts can tell the leader the word and the leader can write it.

Bible Time – Books of the Bible Scavenger Hunt

- Write the New Testament books of the Bible on small index cards.
- Hide the cards around the classroom.
- Instruct kids to look carefully to find the cards.
- Once they are all found, have the kids work together to put them in the correct order.

Get-To-Know-You Game – This or That?

- Designate two sides of the room for different choices. You can have signs to hold up or just point where the kids should go.
- Ask questions like "Do you like tacos or pizza?" "Do you like dogs or cats?"
- Have the kids move to the side that represents their choice.
- Repeat as time allows.

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: "*Welcome to KXP! I'm learning so much from our series, Tree of Promise, and I hope you are too. Last week, in our true story from the Bible, we left with Joseph in prison. Potiphar had thrown him in jail for something he didn't even do. Hard to believe, right?! But while Joseph was in prison, the warden saw that God was with Joseph. The warden put him in charge of the other prisoners and the activities that went on there.*

Our Big Idea says that God will always remember us. *God remembered Joseph in the pit where his brothers left him. God remembered Joseph when he was sold as a slave in Egypt, and God was with Joseph in prison, too."*

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

Joseph in Prison | Genesis 40-41

While locked in prison, Joseph was put in charge of two prisoners who had displeased the king - the king's cupbearer, who served him drinks, and the king's baker.

One night, both men had confusing dreams. They didn't know what the dreams meant. ***Genesis chapter 40, verse 8 says, "The two men answered. 'We both had dreams last night. But no one can explain the meaning of them to us.'"***
Joseph told them that God could help him understand and asked the men to share their dreams with him. The cupbearer dreamt of a grape vine with three branches. In the dream, he squeezed wine from the grapes into the king's cup. Joseph told him the king would let him out of prison in three days and return him to his job.

Genesis 40:14 tells us that Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him when the king allowed him back into the palace. **"'*But when you are free, remember me. Be kind to me. Tell the king about me so that I can get out of this prison.*'"**

The baker also told Joseph about his own dream. He dreamt of three baskets of bread on his head. Birds came and ate the bread from the top basket. Joseph told him that in three days, the king would kill him. That was definitely not what the baker wanted to hear.

Joseph knew that God had given him the ability to understand dreams, even in his childhood. The cupbearer was set free from prison. He returned to the palace and his old job of serving drinks to the king. Sadly, the baker was taken from prison and killed by the king's men. When he returned to the palace, the cupbearer completely forgot about Joseph. He forgot Joseph's kindness and didn't do anything to help him get out of prison. Don't worry! Even though the cupbearer forgot – God remembered.

Another very important chance to explain dreams was coming to Joseph. One night, the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, had two strange dreams that troubled him. Pharaoh dreamt that seven fat, healthy cows came out of the river, followed by seven skinny, unhealthy cows. The skinny cows ate the fat cows. Next, he dreamt that seven healthy heads of grain grew, followed by seven thin, shriveled heads of grain. The thin grain swallowed up the healthy grain. What in the world could these dreams mean?

Pharaoh's wise men couldn't explain the dreams. It was then that the cupbearer, who had been in prison with Joseph, finally remembered him. He told Pharaoh about Joseph's gift from God to explain dreams.

Joseph was brought out of prison to see Pharaoh. He explained that God was the one who would give the meaning of the dreams. Joseph told Pharaoh that the two dreams meant the same thing. There would be seven years with a lot of food and a plentiful harvest. After that, there would be seven years of terrible famine, during which all the food would be gone.

Joseph wisely advised Pharaoh to put a plan into action. He told him to find a smart and wise man to put in charge of storing up extra food during the good years. This food would be saved to feed everyone during the seven years of famine. Pharaoh was so impressed that he chose Joseph for the job! ***Genesis 41:39-40 tells us, "So the king said to Joseph, 'God has shown you all this. There is no one as wise and understanding as you are. I will put you in charge of my palace. All the people will obey your orders. Only I will be greater than you.'"***

Joseph was made the second most powerful person in all of Egypt, right behind Pharaoh. Joseph was put in charge of the whole plan and was given fine clothes, a gold chain, and a new name. Just as Joseph predicted, the years of plenty of food and the years of very little food happened exactly as he said they would.

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

Say: *"Isn't Joseph's story incredible?! He stayed faithful to God and believed His promises. Joseph knew that God had a purpose for him and that the Lord would always remember him. Sometimes our story can take some hard and unexpected turns. Still, if we follow God and His Son, Jesus, no matter how hard things get, HE will always remember us because He loves us so much. There's more to come, so bring a friend with you next Sunday to KXP."*

Direct the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

Live It Out – 5 to 8 minutes | Trust in the Trials

What you'll need: small cards or ½ sheets of paper, pencils

Leaders:

- **Ask:** How do you think Joseph felt while he was in prison? Did he trust that God was with him? How did Joseph see God's faithfulness while he was in prison?
- Have kids think about a time they have struggled or gone through a trial.
- **Ask** those same questions about their experience of going through a trial. How did you feel during that trial? Did you trust God during that difficult time? How did you see God's faithfulness during your struggles?
- Give each child a pencil and paper. Let them spend time journaling about their answers.
- Allow time for the kids to share if they would like to.
- Pray together and thank God for his faithfulness in our trials.

Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.