YOUTH GROUP CURRICULUM · AGES 11–18

STAY FAITHFUL
BE BRAVE
SPEAK UP
STAND FIRM
REBUILD
SAY YES
GIVE
GO

# YOUNG & CALLED

An 8-week series on teenagers God used. Calling isn't a noun. It's a verb.

WEEK 1 OF 8

## *Faithful in the Pit*

Joseph · Stay Faithful · Genesis 39

**Inside:** 45 / 60 / 75-minute plans · Word-for-word scripts · Activity Menu with 4 games
Response activity · Discussion · Joys & Concerns · Pastoral prayer · Student pages + devotional

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WEEK 1 · LEADER GUIDE

# Faithful in the Pit

Joseph · Verb: Stay faithful · Main text: Genesis 39:1–4, 20–23 · Memory verse: Galatians 6:9

**THE BIG IDEA**

**Calling isn't waiting for your big moment. It's being faithful right where you are, even in the pit, because God is with you there.**

### The question to carry all night

*"Where is God asking me to be faithful right now?"*

### By the end, students will…

- See calling as a verb, not a someday job title
- Notice that God was with Joseph in *every* place
- Start their Verb Deck with one faithful step

## NIGHT AT A GLANCE · PICK YOUR LENGTH

| SEGMENT | WHAT HAPPENS | 45 MIN | 60 MIN | 75 MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Welcome** | Greet new students by name and grade; your announcements | — | — | 5 |
| **Game 1** | Pick from the Activity Menu (next page) | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| **Game 2** | A second game from the menu (optional) | — | — | 10 |
| **Hook + Message** | "What did you want to be at 5?" · Genesis 39 | 10 | 12 | 12 |
| **Response Activity** | Verb Deck: Card 1 + My One Step | 10 | 12 | 12 |
| **Small Group Talk** | Pick 3–4 questions | — | 8 | 10 |
| **Joys & Concerns** | "I lift up ___ to God." / "Lord, hear our prayer." | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| **Pastoral Prayer** | Leader prays over what was shared + send-off | 5 | 5 | 5 |

### Supplies

- 1 index card per student (Verb Deck Card 1) + envelopes
- Pens, markers, blank paper
- 2–3 balloons or beach balls (for Keep It Up)
- Two signs: "NOUN" and "VERB" (for Nouns vs. Verbs)
- Student pages (last 3 pages) · Bibles · phone timer

### Before students arrive

- Choose your games using the Activity Menu
- Read Genesis 37 and 39 once through
- Practice the hook out loud one time
- Remember what *you* wanted to be at 5
- Pray for each student by name


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CHOOSE WHAT FITS YOUR GROUP

# Activity Menu

Every group is different. Some nights you have fifteen students bouncing off the walls; some nights you have four quiet ones and a visitor. Pick one or two games, then finish with the response activity. Every game ends with a debrief that points back to tonight's question.

| ACTIVITY | ENERGY | PREP | BEST WHEN… | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A. Nouns vs. Verbs**<br>Run to a side, then name your verb | High | Two signs | Students need to move; you want the clearest setup for the whole series | 10 |
| **B. Keep It Up**<br>Keep a balloon in the air, one body part at a time | Medium | Balloons | You want laughs, teamwork, and a picture of "don't give up" | 10–12 |
| **C. Dream Board Draw**<br>Draw your dream at 5 and now; others guess | Low–Med | Paper, markers | Lots of new students; you want real stories without pressure | 10 |
| **D. Pit Stop Stories**<br>Trios share a time something went wrong, then good came | Low | None | Small or quiet group; students who already know each other a little | 8–10 |
| **E. Verb Deck: Card 1**<br>Response activity (after message) | Reflective | Index cards, envelopes | Every night: this is the heart of the week and starts the series deck | 12 |

## SUGGESTED COMBINATIONS

### Big, high-energy group (10–15)

A. Nouns vs. Verbs → B. Keep It Up → Message → E. Verb Deck: Card 1

### Small group (4–6)

C. Dream Board Draw (whole group) → Message → E. Verb Deck in a circle

### Lots of first-time visitors

A. Nouns vs. Verbs → C. Dream Board Draw → Message → E. Verb Deck (low-pressure option)

### Short on time (45 min)

A. Nouns vs. Verbs → Message → E. Verb Deck: Card 1 → Joys & Concerns

**GROUND RULES FOR EVERY GAME** *Nobody is forced to share. Nobody is the punchline. New students get paired with a regular. If a game ever starts to single someone out, change the round and keep moving.*


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## A. Nouns vs. Verbs

10 min · High energy

**Purpose:** A fast, silly sorting game that gets everyone moving and quietly sets up the whole series: calling isn't a noun, it's a verb. It ends with pairs talking about one verb that really describes them.

### HOW TO PLAY

1. Tape a "NOUN" sign on one wall and a "VERB" sign on the opposite wall. Everyone starts in the middle.
2. Quick refresher: a **noun** is a person, place, or thing. A **verb** is something you *do*.
3. The leader calls out a word. Students run (or speed-walk) to the side they think it belongs on. Last few to arrive are totally fine. No one is out.
4. Some words can be **both** ("text," "dance"). If students think it's both, they stand in the middle. Ask one person from each side to argue their case.
5. After 15–20 words, students pair up with someone near them. Each person names **one verb that describes them** and tells their partner why.

### LEADER SCRIPT

> **SAY**
>
> "Okay, quick English class, I promise it's fun. Over here is NOUN: a person, place, or thing. Over there is VERB: something you do. I'm going to shout a word, and you run to where it belongs. If you think it's both, stand in the middle and be ready to defend yourself. Ready? *Pizza*!"
>
> "Last round. Find a partner near you. Tell them one verb that describes you. Not a job, not a label. Something you *do*. Like 'I build,' 'I make people laugh,' 'I notice when someone is left out.' Go!"

### WORD LIST (MIX SILLY AND REAL)

- Pizza (noun)
- Jump (verb)
- Doctor (noun)
- Encourage (verb)
- Hamster (noun)
- Sneeze (verb)
- Astronaut (noun)
- Listen (verb)
- Skateboard (both!)
- Forgive (verb)
- YouTuber (noun)
- Text (both!)
- Pastor (noun)
- Serve (verb)
- Taco (noun)
- Dance (both!)
- Protect (verb)
- Grandma (noun)
- Create (verb)
- Practice (both!)
- Influencer (noun)
- Help (both!)
- Teacher → Teach (switch sides!)
- Calling (save for last)

### VARIATIONS

- **Small group (4–6):** Stay seated. Thumbs up for verb, thumbs down for noun, sideways for both. Everyone names their verb in one go-around.


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- **Job swap round:** Call a job ("doctor"), then ask, "What's the verb inside that job?" (heal, help, care). Students shout answers.
- **Limited space:** Left hand up for noun, right hand up for verb, both hands for both.

### DEBRIEF

> **SAY**
>
> "Where did everybody go on 'calling'? Most people think calling is a noun: a job, a title, something you *become* someday. This whole series, we're going to flip that. Calling is a verb. It's something you do, today, right where you are. So here's tonight's question: **where is God asking me to be faithful right now?**"

## B. Keep It Up

10–12 min · Medium energy

**Purpose:** Teams keep a balloon in the air using only the body part the leader calls. It's goofy, it takes teamwork, and it's a great picture of faithfulness: nobody wins with one big hit. You win by not quitting. Between rounds, teams answer a quick question together.

### HOW TO PLAY

1. Split into teams of 3–5 and give each team one balloon. Mix up friend groups.
2. The leader calls a body part ("elbows only!"). Teams have 30 seconds to keep the balloon off the floor using **only** that body part.
3. Teams count their hits out loud. If the balloon hits the floor, pick it up and start the count over. No team is ever out.
4. Between rounds, call out a talk question. Teams huddle for 60 seconds and everyone answers.
5. Play 6–8 rounds. Finish with "the long round": any body part, as long as you can, whole group, one balloon.

### LEADER SCRIPT

> **SAY**
>
> "Every team gets one balloon. Your job is simple: don't let it touch the ground. But you can only use the body part I call. Count your hits out loud. If it drops, grab it and start again. Round one: *elbows only*! Go!"
>
> "Nice. Huddle up. Before the next round, everybody on your team answers this…"


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### ROUNDS + TALK QUESTIONS

| ROUND | BODY PART | HUDDLE QUESTION |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Elbows only | "What's something you do every week, no matter what?" |
| 2 | Heads only | "What's a chore or job at home you're kind of known for?" |
| 3 | Left hand only | "What's something you practiced a lot before you got good at it?" |
| 4 | Knees only | "Who's someone in your life who always shows up?" |
| 5 | Feet only | "What's the longest you've stuck with something hard?" |
| 6 | Shoulders only | "What makes you want to quit something?" |
| 7 | Blow only (no touching) | "What helps you keep going when something gets boring?" |
| 8 | One hand each, holding hands | "Who helps you not give up?" |
| **Final** | Anything, whole group | Lead into the debrief |

### VARIATIONS

- **Small group (4–6):** One team, one balloon. Try to beat your own record each round. Everyone answers the huddle question.
- **Two balloons:** For a big, confident group, add a second balloon in later rounds.
- **Low-space version:** Everyone stays seated in a circle and uses only hands or heads.

**LEADER NOTE** *Check for latex allergies before you bring balloons. A light beach ball works too. Keep the focus on the team's count, not on who dropped it.*

### DEBRIEF

> **SAY**
>
> "Did anybody win with one giant, amazing hit? No. You kept it up with a bunch of small, boring, faithful taps. And when it dropped, you picked it up and kept going. That's what we're talking about tonight. Faithfulness isn't flashy. It's showing up, again and again. So: **where is God asking you to be faithful right now?**"

## C. Dream Board Draw

10 min · Low–Medium energy

**Purpose:** Students draw what they wanted to be when they were little and what they dream about now, then others guess. It's funny, it's low-pressure for new students (bad drawings are the point), and it opens a real conversation about dreams, just like Joseph's.


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## HOW TO PLAY

1. Give everyone a sheet of paper. Fold it in half. Label the left side **"Age 5"** and the right side **"Now."**
2. 60 seconds: on the left, draw what you wanted to be when you were five. No words allowed.
3. 60 seconds: on the right, draw a dream you have now. It can be a job, a place, or something you want to do.
4. In groups of 3–4, hold up one side at a time. Others guess. Then the artist explains.
5. Last question in each group: "What's the *verb* hiding inside your dream?" (A vet dream: care for animals. A chef dream: feed people.)

## LEADER SCRIPT

> **SAY**
>
> "Good news: this is a drawing game where bad art wins. Fold your paper in half. On the left, draw what you wanted to be when you were five. No words. Sixty seconds. Go! … Now on the right, draw a dream you have now. Could be a job, a place, something you want to do someday. Go!"
>
> "Get in groups of three or four. Show your 'Age 5' side and let people guess. Then tell the story."

## DRAWING PROMPTS (FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE STUCK)

- A job you thought was cool at 5
- A superhero or character you wanted to be
- An animal you wanted to be (it counts)
- A place you want to live someday
- A place you want to visit
- Something you want to build or make
- A team or stage you want to be on
- A skill you want to get really good at
- A way you want to help people
- What you'd do with a free Saturday forever
- A thing you want to learn
- "I have no idea yet" (draw a question mark!)

## VARIATIONS

- **Small group (4–6):** Everyone shows their drawings to the whole group, one at a time.
- **Leader gallery:** The leader draws first and lets the group guess. Students love seeing adults draw badly.
- **Wall of Dreams:** Tape the drawings up (only if students want to) and leave them up all series.

**LEADER NOTE** *"I don't know yet" is a great answer. Say so out loud. Many students feel pressure to have their whole life figured out, and this series is here to take that pressure off.*

## DEBRIEF

> **SAY**
>
> "Most of our dreams were nouns: a firefighter, a YouTuber, a princess. And dreams are great. Tonight we'll meet a teenager with a huge dream from God. But his dream took a really long detour first. The question is what you do in the meantime: **where is God asking you to be faithful right now?**"


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## D. Pit Stop Stories

8–10 min · Low energy

**Purpose:** A calm, story-sharing game for small or quiet groups. Students share light stories of times something went wrong but something good came out of it. It prepares them to hear Joseph's story, where the "pit" wasn't the end.

### HOW TO PLAY

1. Split into trios. Mix it up: "Find two people you know the least."
2. The leader shares a short, light story first to model it (see the leader note).
3. The leader reads a prompt. One person in each trio answers in about 60 seconds. Then the next person takes a turn with a new prompt.
4. Each story ends with the same line: "**...and the good thing that came out of it was ___.**"
5. After 3–4 rounds, ask each trio to share the funniest or most surprising "good thing."

### LEADER SCRIPT

> **SAY**
> "Get in groups of three. We're telling Pit Stop Stories: times something went wrong, but something good came out of it. Keep it light: a canceled trip, a broken phone, getting lost. Every story ends with, 'and the good thing that came out of it was...' I'll go first."

### PROMPTS (KEEP THEM LIGHT)

- A time a plan got canceled
- A time you got lost
- A time you broke something
- A time you got cut or didn't make it
- A time you had to move or switch schools
- A time the weather ruined everything
- A time you got sick on a big day
- A cooking or baking disaster
- A time you tried something and it flopped
- A time you had to start over
- A time you were stuck waiting forever
- A time a "bad" surprise turned out okay

### VARIATIONS

- **Small group (4–6):** Stay together and go around the circle. Anyone can pass.
- **Story Swap:** In trios, retell someone else's story (with permission) and let them fix the details.

**LEADER NOTE** *Model a light story, not a heavy one: a flat tire, a missed flight, a cake that fell apart. If a student starts to share something serious, thank them, keep it gentle, and follow up privately (see the Care Note).*

### DEBRIEF

> **SAY**
> "In a lot of those stories, the bad part wasn't the end of the story. Tonight we'll hear about a teenager who ended up in an actual pit. And the Bible says something surprising about who was with him there. Keep this question in your head: **where is God asking you to be faithful right now?**"


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## Hook: "What Did You Want to Be?"

2 min

**SAY**

"Raise your hand if you ever wanted to be a firefighter. A dinosaur? Be honest. What did you want to be when you were five?" (*Let a few students call out answers. Share yours.*)

"Adults ask us this question our whole lives. 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' And the answer is always a noun: doctor, teacher, pro athlete. Like you're not really *anything* until you get the title."

"For the next eight weeks, we're going to meet young people God used. Teenagers, some of them. And here's the big idea of the whole series: **calling isn't a noun. It's a verb.** It's not something you wait to become someday. It's something you do today. Tonight's verb is **stay faithful**."

## Message: Faithful Right Where You Are

10 min

### 1. A big dream, then everything went wrong

**SAY**

"Meet Joseph. The Bible says he was seventeen. He was his dad's favorite, and his dad gave him a special coat to prove it. His older brothers noticed. Then Joseph had dreams from God, dreams where his whole family bowed down to him. And he told them. His brothers already couldn't stand him. Now they hated him."

"One day his brothers grabbed him, pulled off the coat, and threw him into an empty pit. Then they sold him to traders headed to Egypt. Just like that, the kid with the big dream is a slave in a foreign country. Nobody from home is coming for him."

**LEADER NOTE** *If you have a short, honest story about a time your plans fell apart as a teenager, tell it here. Thirty seconds is plenty. Students trust leaders who go first.*

### 2. In every place, God was with Joseph

**SAY**

"Here's where Joseph ends up next. Listen for one phrase that keeps showing up."

[1] *Joseph was brought down to Egypt. Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, the captain of the*
*guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the hand of the Ishmaelites that had brought him*
*down there.* [2] *Yahweh was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man. He was in the house*
*of his master the Egyptian.* [3] *His master saw that Yahweh was with him, and that Yahweh*
*made all that he did prosper in his hand.* [4] *Joseph found favor in his sight. He ministered to*
*him, and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.*

GENESIS 39:1–4 · WORLD ENGLISH BIBLE


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"Joseph is a slave. He didn't choose this. But he works so faithfully that his master puts him in charge of everything. Then it gets worse. His master's wife lies about him, and Joseph gets thrown in prison for something he didn't do. Listen to what happens there."

> *20 Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were bound, and he was there in custody. 21 But Yahweh was with Joseph, and showed kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 The keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever they did there, he was responsible for it. 23 The keeper of the prison didn't look after anything that was under his hand, because Yahweh was with him; and that which he did, Yahweh made it prosper.*
>
> GENESIS 39:20–23 · WORLD ENGLISH BIBLE

"Did you hear it? **'Yahweh was with Joseph.'** In the house. In the prison. The Bible doesn't say God showed up once Joseph got out of the pit. God was with him *in* it."

### 3. Faithful in small places is the calling

**SAY**

"Joseph could have said, 'This isn't my dream. I'll try hard once I get to the good part.' But he didn't treat the pit like a waiting room. He did the job in front of him, in a house he didn't choose and a prison he didn't deserve, and he did it well."

"Years later, the Bible says he was thirty when he stood before Pharaoh, and God used him to save a lot of people from a famine. But the calling didn't start there. It started in the small, unfair, boring places, when he stayed faithful and nobody was clapping."

"That's you too. Your calling isn't waiting for you after graduation. It's in your homework, your chores, your practice, how you treat your little brother. That's not the waiting room. That's the calling."

### 4. Don't quit doing good

**SAY**

"Faithful can feel slow. You do the right thing and nothing happens. Here's our memory verse for the week:"

> *Let us not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season, if we don't give up.*
>
> GALATIANS 6:9 · WORLD ENGLISH BIBLE

"'In due season.' Not always right away. But God sees it, and God is with you in it. So the verb for this week is **stay faithful**. And the question is: **where is God asking me to be faithful right now?**"


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## E. Response Activity: Verb Deck, Card 1

12 min

**Purpose:** Start each student's **Verb Deck**, a stack of index cards they'll build all series, one calling verb per week. Tonight's card is **Stay Faithful**. Students name one real place they'll be faithful this week, and who it's for. In Week 8 the whole deck becomes a Calling Sentence.

### HOW TO RUN IT

1. Give every student one index card. On the **front**, they write big: **STAY FAITHFUL**. Decorate it if there's time.
2. On the **back**, they finish: **"This week I will stay faithful by ___ for ___."** The first blank is a real place: homework, a chore, a practice, a job, a friendship. The second blank is a person.
3. Use the "Where Could I Be Faithful?" list below if students are stuck. Encourage small and specific over big and vague.
4. In pairs, students read their card to a partner. The partner answers: "God is with you in that."
5. Students put the card in an envelope with their name on it (leaders keep the envelopes) or take it home to keep in a safe place. Either way, the deck grows every week.
6. **My One Step:** Students fill in "My One Step This Week" on their student page: do that faithful thing every day this week.

### LEADER SCRIPT

**SAY (FRONT)**

"This is card one of your Verb Deck. Every week we'll add one card, one verb. By the end of the series, you'll have a whole deck that says something about how God made you. On the front, write big: STAY FAITHFUL."

**SAY (BACK)**

"Flip it over. Finish this sentence: 'This week I will stay faithful by ___ for ___.' Think of one real place, like homework, a chore, your practice, a friend who needs you. And who is it for? Your mom, your team, your little sister, God. Keep it small enough to actually do."

**SAY (PAIRS)**

"Find a partner. Read your card. When your partner reads theirs, you say: 'God is with you in that.' It might feel a little awkward. That's okay. It's true."

**SAY (ONE STEP)**

"Last thing. Turn to 'My One Step' on your student page. Your step this week is simple: do that faithful thing every day. Check it off each day. Next week we'll ask how it went, and you'll add card two to your deck."


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### "Where could I be faithful?" (if stuck)

- My homework
- One chore at home
- My practice
- My part-time job
- Being on time
- My little sibling
- A friend who's struggling
- Reading my Bible
- Being kind at lunch
- Helping a grandparent

### Example cards (back side)

- "...by doing the dishes without being asked, for my mom."
- "...by finishing my math homework before my phone, for me and God."
- "...by showing up to every practice on time, for my team."
- "...by texting my friend every day this week, for Jordan."
- "...by reading one chapter a night, for God."

## VARIATIONS

- **Small group (4–6):** Sit in a circle. Each person reads their card, and the whole group answers together: "God is with you in that."
- **Low-pressure option:** If pairs feel like too much, students keep their card private and pray silently over it.
- **Deck wall:** Hang a "Verb Deck" poster and add each week's verb. Watch the list grow all series.

**LEADER NOTE** *Some students may feel stuck in a hard place at home or school, and "faithful" might sound like "just put up with it." Make it clear that staying faithful never means staying quiet about being hurt or unsafe. See the Care Note at the end of the leader guide.*

## DEBRIEF

> **SAY**
> "Look at your card. It's not a job title. It's a verb, and it's something you can do this week. Joseph didn't know where his story was going, but he stayed faithful where he was, and God was with him. **So where is God asking you to be faithful right now?** You just wrote it down."

# Small Group Talk

8–10 min · Optional

Groups of 3–5, with one adult or student leader per group if possible. Pick 3–4 questions that fit your group.

## WARM UP

1. What's the funniest thing you ever wanted to be when you grew up?
   *Follow-up: Is there a verb hiding in it?*
2. When adults ask, "What do you want to be?", how does that question feel?
   *Keep it light. Fun, annoying, stressful?*

## GO DEEPER

3. Joseph went from favorite son to slave to prisoner. Which part do you think was hardest for him?


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*Why do you think he kept working hard anyway?*

4. The Bible keeps saying "Yahweh was with Joseph," even in prison. What does that tell you about where God is when life is unfair?
   *Does God being "with" you mean everything will go well right away?*
5. What's a "small place" in your life right now that doesn't feel important?
   *What would staying faithful look like there?*
6. Galatians 6:9 says don't give up doing good. Where are you tempted to quit right now?

### TAKE IT HOME

7. Who is one person who will be helped if you stay faithful this week?
8. What will you do on the day you don't feel like doing your One Step?

> **LEADER NOTE** *Silence is okay. Count to seven in your head before rephrasing. If no one answers, answer it yourself briefly and honestly, then ask again.*

## Joys & Concerns

10 min

**Purpose:** Students practice praying *for each other*, not just hearing about prayer. It's often the moment new students realize this group actually cares about them. Tonight it fits the theme: God was with Joseph in the good places and the hard ones, and he is with us in both.

### HOW IT WORKS

1. Sit in a circle if you can. Explain the response: when someone shares, they end with **"I lift up ___ to God."** Everyone responds together: **"Lord, hear our prayer."**
2. Start with **joys** (things to thank God for), then move to **concerns** (things we're worried about or carrying).
3. The leader goes first to model it, with one joy and one concern.
4. Anyone can share, or pass. "Unspoken" requests are welcome, too.
5. Jot down what's shared (first names only) so you can pray for each one in the Pastoral Prayer.

### LEADER SCRIPT

> **SAY**
>
> "Tonight we heard that God was with Joseph everywhere: in the house, in the prison, in the pit. That means he's with us in the good weeks and the hard ones. So let's bring both to him. What's something good that happened this week you're thankful for? Or something that feels like a pit right now, for you, your family, or a friend?"
>
> "When you share, end with 'I lift up ___ to God.' And all of us will say together, 'Lord, hear our prayer.' Let's practice. I lift up this group to God..." (*All: "Lord, hear our prayer."*)
>
> "I'll go first. My joy is ___. I lift up ___ to God. My concern is ___. I lift up ___ to God."


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### Joy starters (if students are stuck)

- A good grade or finishing a big project
- Hard work that finally paid off
- My team won / a great practice
- Someone I love got good news
- Just having a good week

### Concern starters

- A test or tryout coming up
- A grandparent or relative who is sick
- A friend who's going through something
- Something that feels stuck or unfair
- "I have an unspoken request."

## VARIATIONS

- **Small group (4–6):** Go around the circle so everyone gets a turn, and everyone is allowed to pass.
- **Big group (12+):** "Popcorn" style: anyone shares when ready. Cap it at about 8 minutes.
- **Written version:** Students write joys and concerns on slips of paper. The leader reads them (no names) and the group responds.

**LEADER NOTE** *Say once at the start: "What's shared here stays here, unless someone's safety is at risk." If a student shares something serious, thank them, pray, and follow up privately afterward (see the Care Note).*

## Pastoral Prayer

3–5 min

Pray this over the group. The **[bracketed]** lines are where you name the joys and concerns students just shared.

Faithful God,

Thank you for every person in this room. Thank you that you were with Joseph in the house, in the pit, and in the prison, and that you are with us tonight, right where we are.

Thank you for the good things you've given us this week. *[Name the joys shared: "Thank you for Maya's grandma coming home from the hospital, for Chris's team winning..."]* Every good gift comes from you.

And we bring you the things we're carrying. *[Name the concerns: "Be with Ethan's family. Give Sophia peace before her test on Friday..."]* And for the things that stayed in our hearts tonight and weren't spoken out loud, you already know them. Hold them too.

Some of us feel stuck. Some of us are dealing with things that aren't fair. Some of us are just tired of doing the right thing when nobody notices. Remind us that you see it, and that you are with us there. Give us strength not to give up doing good.

Thank you for the verb on our cards tonight. Help us stay faithful this week, in our homework, our homes, our teams, and our friendships. For anyone who is new here, thank you for


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bringing them. Help them feel at home. And show each of us where you're asking us to be faithful right now.

In Jesus' name, amen.

**SEND-OFF**

"Take your student pages home. There's a five-day devotional in there, just a few minutes a day, and a tracker for your one step. Bring it back next week, and we'll add card two to your Verb Deck. Next time we're meeting a teenager who faced a giant: **'Five Smooth Stones.'** And every week we'll keep asking the same question: **what verb is God calling me to live today?** See you then."

**Next Week Follow-Up:** Open Week 2 by asking students to look at their One Step tracker. "How many days did you stay faithful to the thing on your card? What helped? What got in the way?" Celebrate any progress, even one day. Hand back the Verb Deck envelopes before the response activity so students can add card two.

### Care Note for Leaders

Joseph's story includes family conflict, siblings who hurt him, and being treated unfairly. It can stir up real things for students: fighting at home, being hurt by a brother or sister, feeling stuck or trapped in a situation, or being blamed for something they didn't do.

- **Stay calm and thank them** for telling you. "I'm really glad you told me."
- **Be clear:** staying faithful never means staying silent about being hurt or unsafe. Getting help is the faithful thing to do.
- **Don't promise to keep secrets** if someone's safety is at risk.
- **Follow your church's safety policy** and tell your lead pastor the same day.
- **Connect them to trained help:** parents or guardians, a school counselor, or a licensed counselor. In the U.S., anyone can call or text **988** (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline) any time.

You're not expected to be a counselor. Your job is to listen well, take it seriously, and make sure they're connected to the right people.


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THE FULL SERIES

# YOUNG & CALLED · 8 Weeks

Each week stands alone, so new students can jump in any week. Taught in order, the eight weeks meet young people God used, from Joseph to Timothy, and build one conversation around a simple idea: calling isn't a noun, it's a verb. The question every week: *What verb is God calling me to live today?*

| # | WEEK | TEXT |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Faithful in the Pit** Joseph · Stay faithful | Genesis 39 |
| 2 | **Five Smooth Stones** David · Be brave | 1 Samuel 17 |
| 3 | **For Such a Time** Esther · Speak up | Esther 4 |
| 4 | **Even If** Three friends · Stand firm | Daniel 3 |
| 5 | **Found in the Rubble** Josiah · Rebuild | 2 Chronicles 34 |
| 6 | **Let It Be** Mary · Say yes | Luke 1:26–38 |
| 7 | **Five Loaves, Two Fish** The boy with the lunch · Give | John 6:5–13 |
| 8 | **Don't Let Anyone Look Down** Timothy · Go | 1 Timothy 4:12–16 |

### Every week includes

- 45 / 60 / 75-minute schedules
- Activity Menu with 4+ game options
- Word-for-word leader scripts
- Scripture (World English Bible) and one big idea
- Response activity + "One Step" challenge
- A growing Verb Deck students keep all series
- Tiered discussion questions
- Joys & Concerns prayer time
- Pastoral prayer with space for your group
- Student pages and 5-day devotional
- Next-week follow-up

### Built for real youth groups

These weeks were written for a real Wednesday night group: 5 to 15 students, often with a new face or two, led by a pastor or volunteer with limited prep time. Games never single anyone out. Every activity has a small-group version. And every leader script can be read word for word when you're short on time.

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Purchasers may photocopy and share the student pages and leader guide for use within their own church or ministry.
Scripture quotations are from the World English Bible (public domain).

Name: _____ Date: _____

**TONIGHT'S BIG IDEA**

**Calling isn't waiting for my big moment. It's being faithful right where I am, because God is with me there.**

## JOSEPH'S STORY MAP · GENESIS 37 & 39

For each stop, write what happened and where God was.

| STOP | WHAT HAPPENED? | WHERE WAS GOD? |
|---|---|---|
| **1. The Dream** Genesis 37:5–7 | | |
| **2. The Pit** Genesis 37:23–28 | | |
| **3. Potiphar's House** Genesis 39:2–4 | | |
| **4. The Prison** Genesis 39:21–23 | | |

## NOUNS VS. VERBS: MY LIST

**Nouns:** things I'm called (labels, roles, titles)

**Verbs:** things I actually do (and love doing)

## MEMORY VERSE · GALATIANS 6:9

"Let us not be _____ in doing _____, for we will _____ in due season, if we don't _____ _____."

One place I'm tempted to give up right now:



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## MY ONE STEP THIS WEEK

Do your faithful thing every day. Keep it small enough to actually do.

This week I will stay faithful by _____

for _____ (a person)

On the day I don't feel like it, I will remember:

_____

Example: "This week I will stay faithful by doing the dishes without being asked, for my mom."

### My Verb Deck · Card 1: STAY FAITHFUL

Your index card is the first card in your Verb Deck. Keep it safe (or your leader will hold it in your envelope). Every week you'll add one new verb. In Week 8 your deck becomes your own Calling Sentence.

## MY WEEK TRACKER

Check each day you did your faithful thing.

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## MY PRAYER LIST

Write down the joys and concerns people shared tonight (first names only) and keep praying this week.

| JOYS: THANK YOU, GOD, FOR… | CONCERNS: PLEASE BE WITH… |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

✂ CUT OUT AND KEEP IN YOUR PHONE CASE, WALLET, OR BIBLE

*"Let us not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season, if we don't give up."*

GALATIANS 6:9

I'm staying faithful in: _____

My step: M ☐ T ☐ W ☐ T ☐ F ☐ S ☐ S ☐



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## 5 Days of Staying Faithful

TAKE-HOME DEVOTIONAL · 5 MINUTES A DAY

Each day: read the verse, think about the question, write one honest sentence. That's it.

**DAY 1** Genesis 39:2 · God was with him

"Yahweh was with Joseph," even as a slave far from home. Where do you most need to know God is with you today?

**DAY 2** Genesis 39:21 · Even in prison

Joseph was in prison for something he didn't do, and God still showed him kindness. What feels unfair in your life right now? Tell God honestly.

**DAY 3** Galatians 6:9 · Don't give up

What's one good thing you're tired of doing because nobody seems to notice? Ask God for strength to keep going.

**DAY 4** Luke 16:10 · Faithful in a little

"He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much." What's one "very little" thing you can do well today?

**DAY 5** Colossians 3:23 · Work heartily

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord." Pick one task today and do it for God. How did it feel different?

### A prayer you can pray this week

*God, thank you that you were with Joseph in every place, and that you're with me right where I am. When I feel stuck, or when doing good feels pointless, help me not give up. Show me where you're asking me to be faithful today. Amen.*

Next week · Week 2: **Five Smooth Stones**


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