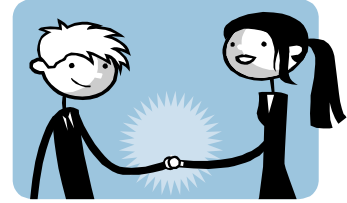
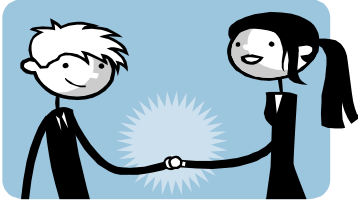


TRUST



Opening Game

Materials Needed: Large plastic garbage bags (with a hole cut out at the end for their head) cheap swim goggles (enough for half the class), small jars of baby food and spoons (enough for half the class), a couple buckets of water and rags.

(this is messy, best done outdoors) Tell the kids to get in pairs and have one of the partners put on a plastic garbage bag (you will have to cut out holes for their head beforehand). Give the other partner a jar of baby food and a plastic spoon. Have the players lay on their backs, head-to-head. One player is to spoon the baby food over her head and into her partner's mouth. Most of the time they'll miss, so you may want the receiving partner to wear a pair of goggles (you can get them cheap at a dollar store). The partner doing the spooning is not allowed to turn and look back.

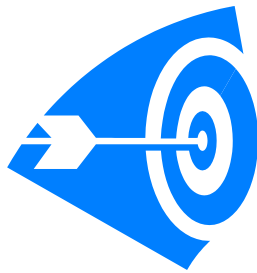
This is a wonderful test of trusting your friend! Use the buckets of water and rags for clean up—you'll need them!

Monty Eastman

Lesson - Trust

Intro: You have to really trust someone to let them feed you baby food upside down, don't you? Some of you may have lost your friend's trust after that game! What a mess!

Trust is today's character trait. Who we put our trust in can make a big difference in our everyday lives.



GET IT???

*(Driving Point, Lesson,
Let's See It and Wrap
Up)*

Driving Point: We need to put our trust in God. Putting it in anyone or anything else can lead to disappointment.

Lesson Outline:

1) Who do you run to when you're in trouble?

Get some responses from the kids. Give a personal example or story of when you've been in trouble and needed to trust someone.

2) Sometimes people we trust can disappoint us.

- * Give personal example
- * Show disappointments in Joseph's life (Genesis 37, 39-45)
 - His brothers sold him into slavery out of jealousy
 - He was falsely accused by his boss's wife and put into jail
 - He helped someone out while he was in jail and they forgot about him

3) You can always trust God.

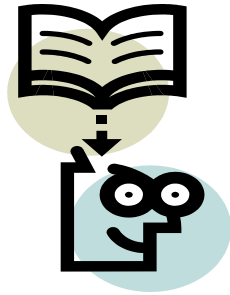
- * God's love never fails. Psalm 52:8 say "I trust in God's unfailing love."

Sometimes people fail us. But God's love is unfailing. That means He is always there for you. It can be hard to understand that He is always there when you can't see Him. But that's the beauty of God's love. The more you get to know Him, the more you will see Him working in your life.

- * God was faithful to Joseph
He ended up being the second in line in all of Egypt. And God brought his entire family back to live with him. He showed forgiveness to his brothers, and God brought healing to their relationship.

Let's See It: (illustrative lesson) Call up a volunteer and have them stand with their back facing you a few steps away. Ask them to simply fall back. If they are afraid, assure them that you'll catch them. Invite a few different students to come up and try. Ask them if they trusted you or if they were afraid you would drop them. Emphasize how we can always "fall back" on God; He's dependable.

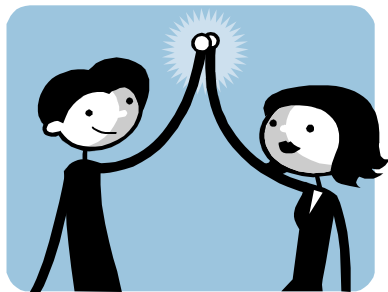
Wrap up: Some of you may have a hard time with the issue of trust. Maybe some people have hurt you and now you're afraid to become close to anyone. God desires that you trust him and have a close relationship with Him through his son Jesus. He can heal your broken heart and guide you into healthy relationships. But you need to trust Him. If you would like to have a closer relationship with Jesus and allow him to heal your hurts, we'd like to pray with you today. (Have them close their eyes and raise their hands if they would like to pray). Lead them in a sinner's prayer (see page in leading youth to Jesus).



GOT IT???? *(Small Group Discussions)*

Small Group Questions: (try to break the kids into groups of eight or less)

- 1) What are some things or some people you have put your trust in? Why?
- 2) Have you ever been disappointed by putting your trust in them?
- 3) When your trust in someone has been broken, what steps can be taken to restore it? When do we need to be careful about restoring trust?
- 4) Why does God want us to put our trust in Him?
- 5) Do you think God will ever disappoint you? Why?
- 6) How can we trust God in our everyday lives?



GOOD!!! *(Weekly Challenge)*

Weekly Challenge: Try the faith drop at home with your family members. Share with them how you learned you can always “fall back,” or trust God. Think of one area of your life that you need to trust God. Whenever you become anxious about it this week, remember that you can trust God and talk to Him about it. Ask Him to take away your fears and anxieties. Read Psalm 52.8.