SPARK Schedule for the YOW! 2025-2026 School Year

Join us as we put Bible stories to the test by trying them in the **Youth Of the Word Courtroom** right here at Concordia!

September 3rd - Jesus on Trial - Memory Verse: John 18:37

September 10th - Peter on Trial - Memory Verse: Luke 22:61

September 17th - Stephen on Trial - Memory Verse: Acts 6:4

September 24th - Paul Before Agrippa - Memory Verse: Acts 26:18

October 1st - Paul and Silas in Prison - Memory Verse: Acts 16:25

October 8th - Joseph vs. His Brothers - Memory Verse: Genesis 50:20 - BAB! (Bring a Buddy night!)

October 15th - Moses Before Pharaoh - Memory Verse: Exodus 3:14

October 22nd - Job on Trial - Memory Verse: Job 1:21

October 29th - David vs. Goliath - Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 17:45

November 5th - Jonah on Trial - Memory Verse: Jonah 2:9 and Jonah 2:10 for extra credit:)

November 12th - Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal- Memory Verse: 1 Kings 18:39

November 19th - Esther on Trial - Memory Verse: Esther 4:14

December 3rd - Daniel on Trial - Memory Verse: Daniel 6:10

December 10th - Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego on Trial - Memory Verse: Daniel 3:18

December 17th - King Saul on Trial - Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 12:24 - Wear your favorite Christmas attire!

January 7th - The Israelites on Trial - Memory Verse: Exodus 1:17

January 14th - Aaron and the Golden Calf - Memory Verse: Exodus 32:21

January 21st - Nehemiah on Trial - Memory Verse: Nehemiah 4:14

January 28th - Balaam on Trial - Memory Verse: Numbers 24:13

February 4th - Ruth on Trial - Memory Verse: Ruth 1:16

February 11th - The Good Samaritan on Trial - Memory Verse: Luke 10:37

February 18th - The Prodigal Son on Trial - Memory Verse: Luke 15:24

February 25th - The Rich Young Man on Trial - Memory Verse: Mark 10:27

March 4th - Zacchaeus on Trial - Memory Verse: Luke 19:8 - BAB!

March 11th - The Pharisee vs. the Tax Collector - Memory Verse: Luke 18:14

March 25th - Why Do You Believe the Bible? - Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

April 1st - Can Jesus Really Be the Only Way? - Memory Verse: John 14:6

April 8th - What If Someone Says God Isn't Real? - Memory Verse: Psalm 14:1

April 15th - What If Someone Savs Jesus Didn't Rise? - Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:26

April 22nd - You're on Trial: Can You Defend Your Faith? - Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15

April 29th - End of the Year Party!

Memorize the verse (or underlined part for K-2nd grade) to get a pin each week!

- **John 18:37** For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth.
- Luke 22:61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."
- Acts 6:4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.
- Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.
- Acts 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening.
- Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.
- Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am." he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you."
- Job 1:21 The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!
- **1 Samuel 17:45** Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but <u>I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts</u>, the <u>God of the armies of Israel</u>.
- **Jonah 2:9** But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. <u>Salvation belongs</u> to the Lord!"
- 1 Kings 18:39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God"
- Esther 4:14 And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?
- Daniel 6:10 He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God.
- **Daniel 3:18** But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.
- 1 Samuel 12:24 Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.
- **Exodus 1:17** But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.
- Exodus 32:21 Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?"
- Nehemiah 4:14 And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."
- **Numbers 24:13** I would not be able to go beyond the word of the Lord, to do either good or bad of my own will. What the Lord speaks, that will I speak.
- Ruth 1:16 For where you go I will go... Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.
- Luke 10:37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."
- Luke 15:24 'For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.
- Mark 10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."
- **Luke 19:8** And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."
- Luke 18:14 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.
- **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- **Psalm 14:1** The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.
- 1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
- 1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, <u>always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you</u>; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Unit 1: Jesus and the Apostles on Trial

Focus: Who is Jesus? What does it mean to follow Him?

- 1. Jesus on Trial: Son of God or Trouble-Maker?
 - o John 18–19
 - o **Theme**: Truth under pressure
 - o Apologetics: Jesus' identity and resurrection
- 2. Peter on Trial: Did You Know Him?
 - o Luke 22:54–62
 - o Theme: Standing strong when it's hard
 - o Apologetics: Jesus forgives our failures
- 3. Stephen on Trial: Blasphemer or Bold Believer?
 - o Acts 6–7
 - o Theme: Courage in witness
 - o Apologetics: Telling the whole story of God
- 4. Paul Before Agrippa: Crazy or Called?
 - o Acts 25–26
 - o **Theme**: Sharing your testimony
 - o Apologetics: Reasonable faith
- 5. Paul and Silas in Prison: Criminals or Christians?
 - o Acts 16:16–40
 - o **Theme**: Joy in trials
 - o **Apologetics**: Faith that changes hearts

Unit 2: Old Testament Faith on Trial

Focus: Trusting God in hard times and strange situations

- 6. Joseph in Egypt: Liar or Leader?
 - o Genesis 37, 39–45
 - o Theme: God brings good from bad
 - o **Apologetics**: God's plan is trustworthy
- 7. Moses Before Pharaoh: Rebel or Rescuer?
 - o *Exodus 3–12*
 - o Theme: Obeying God's call
 - o Apologetics: Miracles and God's power
- 8. Job on Trial: Cursed by God?
 - Job 1–2; selected
 - o Theme: Faith in suffering
 - o **Apologetics**: Why does God allow pain?
- 9. David vs. Goliath: Fool or Fighter for God?
 - o 1 Samuel 17
 - o **Theme**: Trusting God's strength
 - o **Apologetics**: God uses the small and weak
- 10. Jonah on Trial: Faithful Prophet or Runaway?
 - *Jonah 1–4*
 - o Theme: Obeying even when we don't want to
 - o **Apologetics**: God's mercy is for all

Unit 3: Prophets and Kings on Trial

Focus: Speaking truth and staying faithful

11. Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal: Who's the True God?

- o 1 Kings 18
- o Theme: Standing alone for truth
- o **Apologetics**: One true God vs. false gods

12. Esther: Quiet Queen or Brave Advocate?

- *Esther 3*–7
- o Theme: God puts us in the right place
- o Apologetics: God is at work, even behind the scenes

13. Daniel in the Lions' Den: Lawbreaker or Loyal?

- o Daniel 6
- o **Theme**: Faith in public
- o **Apologetics**: Can we trust God when we're afraid?

14. Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego: Bow or Burn?

- o Daniel 3
- o **Theme**: Don't worship idols
- o **Apologetics**: God saves, even if we suffer

15. King Saul: Chosen or Rejected?

- o 1 Samuel 10–15 (selected)
- o **Theme**: Obedience matters
- o Apologetics: God's commands are for our good

Unit 4: God's People on Trial

Focus: When God's people are accused or tested

16. The Israelites: Slaves or Sons of God?

- Exodus 1–15 (overview)
- o **Theme**: God delivers His people
- o **Apologetics**: God's promises are sure

17. Aaron and the Golden Calf: Priest or Idol-Maker?

- o Exodus 32
- o **Theme**: Don't follow the crowd
- o **Apologetics**: Why idols are false

18. Nehemiah: Builder or Rebel?

- *Nehemiah 1–6 (overview)*
- o **Theme**: Leading with faith
- o **Apologetics**: God equips His people for service

19. Balaam: Prophet for Profit?

- o *Numbers 22–24*
- o Theme: Don't twist God's Word
- o **Apologetics**: Truth over popularity

20. Ruth: Outsider or Faithful Follower?

- o Ruth 1–4
- o Theme: God's love includes everyone
- o **Apologetics**: Salvation isn't just for insiders

Unit 5: Jesus' Teachings on Trial

Focus: Parables and teachings that challenge us to think

21. The Good Samaritan: Neighbor or Lawbreaker?

- o Luke 10:25–37
- o **Theme**: Love in action
- o Apologetics: Jesus redefines righteousness

22. The Prodigal Son: Foolish or Forgiven?

- o Luke 15:11–32
- o **Theme**: God welcomes the repentant
- o **Apologetics**: Grace is never earned

23. The Rich Young Man: Good Enough for Heaven?

- o Mark 10:17–31
- o **Theme**: What must I do to be saved?
- o Apologetics: Salvation through Christ alone

24. Zacchaeus: Crook or Changed Man?

- o Luke 19:1–10
- o **Theme**: Jesus changes hearts
- o Apologetics: No one is too far gone

25. The Pharisee vs. the Tax Collector: Who Was Justified?

- o Luke 18:9–14
- o **Theme**: Humility before God
- o Apologetics: Works vs. grace

Unit 6: Defending the Faith Today

Focus: Application and practice in daily life

26. Why Do You Believe the Bible?

- o 2 Timothy 3:14–17
- o **Theme**: God's Word is true
- o **Apologetics**: Scripture is trustworthy

27. Can Jesus Really Be the Only Way?

- o John 14:6; Acts 4:12
- o **Theme**: Jesus alone saves
- o Apologetics: Answering exclusivity claims

28. What If Someone Says God Isn't Real?

- o Psalm 14:1; Romans 1:20
- o **Theme**: Faith and reason
- o **Apologetics**: Evidence of God's existence

29. What If Someone Says Jesus Didn't Rise?

- o 1 Corinthians 15
- o **Theme**: Resurrection is essential
- o **Apologetics**: Historical case for the resurrection

30. You're on Trial: Can You Defend Your Faith?

- o 1 Peter 3:15
- o **Theme**: Be ready to answer
- o **Apologetics**: Sharing your hope with gentleness

♦ Lesson 1: Jesus on Trial − Son of God or Trouble-Maker?

Scripture Focus: John 18–19 (selected verses)

Trial Question: Was Jesus who He said He was, or was He a threat to the people and Rome?

📳 TEACHER'S GUIDE

Time Frame: 45–60 minutes

♦ Age Range: Ages 6−12

Wey Concepts:

- Jesus was innocent, yet He suffered and died for us.
- Even when wrongly accused, He remained faithful.
- We can confidently believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

LCMS Theology Notes:

- Jesus is true God and true man (Apostles' Creed, 2nd Article).
- His trial and crucifixion were part of God's plan of salvation.
- The trial shows the world's rejection of Christ and our need for Him as Savior.

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Understand what happened during Jesus' trial.
- Participate in a mock trial as characters from the story.
- Practice reading from Scripture.
- Learn a basic defense of Jesus' identity.
- Apply the lesson by trusting Jesus even when life is unfair.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bibles (children's or ESV)
- Printed student role sheets (provided below)
- Simple props (gavel, robes, signs for "Judge," "Defense," "Prosecution" optional)
- Whiteboard or poster with "Trial Question" written out

ROLES FOR MOCK TRIAL (10–20 students)

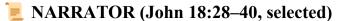
- Judge
- Narrator (can be split into 2)
- Prosecution Lawyer(s)
- Defense Lawyer(s)
- Pontius Pilate
- Jesus (non-speaking or very limited lines)
- Witnesses:
 - o Peter
 - Jewish Leader #1
 - o Jewish Leader #2
 - o Roman Soldier
 - o Barabbas
 - Crowd Members
- Jury (remaining students)

Properties (5-10 min)

- 1. **Prayer** Thanking Jesus for taking our punishment.
- 2. Intro Question "Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do?"
- 3. **Set the Stage** Explain the mock trial concept: We're going to look at real Bible events and ask, "What's the truth?"



MOCK TRIAL SCRIPT



(read aloud by students; breaks for roles to speak)

NARRATOR 1: Today's trial takes us back to a dark and early morning. Jesus had been betrayed and arrested. He was brought before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, while angry religious leaders demanded He be punished. "So Pilate went outside to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' They answered him, 'If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." (John 18:29–30)

JUDGE: This court is now in session. We will determine: Was Jesus the Son of God - or a trouble-maker? The case of The People vs. Jesus of Nazareth will be heard. The Prosecution may begin.



PROSECUTION SPEAKS

Prosecution Lawyer:

"Your honor, we bring charges against Jesus of Nazareth. He stirred up crowds, claimed to be a king, and blasphemed by calling Himself the Son of God!"

Jewish Leader #1:

"He healed people on the Sabbath—against God's Law! That is not holy. That is rebellion!"

Jewish Leader #2:

"He called Himself the Son of God. That is blasphemy! He deserves to die!"

Prosecution Lawyer (to Judge):

Even Pilate knows—a man who challenges Caesar by claiming to be king is dangerous. What king wears no crown and has no army?

Crowd Member #1 (shouting):

Crucify Him! He's causing too much trouble!

Crowd Member #2 (joining in):

He's not our King - we have no king but Caesar!

DEFENSE SPEAKS

DEFENSE LAWYER:

Your honor, these accusations are twisted and false. Jesus helped the sick. He fed the hungry. He calmed storms. He brought life, not trouble.

DEFENSE LAWYER (to the courtroom):

Let's ask: What did Jesus actually say and do? Let the witnesses speak.

Witnesses

PETER (timidly):

I... I followed Jesus. But when He was arrested, I got scared and denied I even knew Him.

But I saw Him heal my mother-in-law with just a touch. I saw Him walk on water. He is no liar.

ROMAN SOLDIER:

I was on duty when He was beaten. He said nothing back. No shouting. No anger. Just silence.

When others cursed Him, He looked at them with... sorrow. Not hate.

DEFENSE LAWYER:

Let us hear Jesus' own words.

READ ALOUD - John 18:36-37

"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world... For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth."

Pilate and the Crowd

PONTIUS PILATE:

I have questioned this man. I find no guilt in Him. He's no danger to Rome.

PROSECUTION LAWYER (interrupts):

But the people are demanding death!

PONTIUS PILATE (to crowd):

I offer you a choice—Jesus, or Barabbas the criminal.

CROWD MEMBER #1:

Give us Barabbas!

CROWD MEMBER #2:

Crucify Jesus! He must die!

BARABBAS (grinning):

Ha! I walk free... and He takes my place.



🚣 Judge's Final Words

JUDGE:

You've heard the evidence. Jury, it is now your duty to decide:

Was Jesus a trouble-maker, or is He the Son of God?

(Let jury take 1–2 minutes to decide. They may vote "Innocent" or "Guilty," but the teacher should guide reflection after.)



Optional Reflection Narrator (After Verdict)

NARRATOR 2:

The world declared Jesus guilty. But in God's plan, He was innocent... and chose to take our punishment.

Isaiah 53:5 (read aloud by student):

"But He was pierced for our transgressions... and by His wounds we are healed."



STUDENT SHEET (Sample for All Roles)

(Each student gets a version of this tailored to their character)

Role: [Peter / Lawyer / Judge / Narrator, etc.]

Today's Trial Question:

Was Jesus who He said He was, or a threat to the people?

Key Bible Verse to Read:

John 18:37 – "For this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth."

What You'll Say or Do:

- (brief script excerpt here)
- Speak loudly and clearly
- Be respectful and listen when others talk

What You're Learning:

- Jesus was innocent but took our place
- Sometimes people will not believe the truth—but God always wins
- You can trust Jesus, even when others don't



DEBRIEF & LIFE LESSON (10–15 min)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Was Jesus really guilty of anything?
- Why did He stay silent?
- Why do you think people wanted Him crucified anyway?
- How does this show His love for us?
- Tie-in to 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed:

"I believe that Jesus Christ... has redeemed me... not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood..."

APPLICATION:

- When people say Jesus was just a man or a good teacher, you can say: "He claimed to be God—and proved it by rising from the dead!"
- Jesus' trial was unfair—but He chose it, for you.

Lesson 2 Student Sheets – Joseph on Trial

Theme: Arrogant Brat or Chosen by God?

Scripture Focus: Genesis 37; 39–45 (selected passages)

Trial Question: Was Joseph just a boastful brother, or was he chosen by God for a greater purpose?

Role: Joseph

- **Key Verses:** Genesis 37:5–11; 50:20
- **◯** Lines to Say:
 - "I had dreams that one day my brothers would bow to me. I didn't mean to brag—I was just telling them what I saw in my dream."
 - "Yes, I was sold into slavery, thrown into prison, and forgotten. But God never left me. He turned everything around for good."
 - "In the end, I forgave my brothers. I said, 'You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."
- Life Lesson: God can use even hard things in our lives for His good plan.

号 Role: Reuben (Joseph's Brother)

- **Key Verse:** Genesis 37:21–22
- **◯** Lines to Say:
 - "Joseph was Dad's favorite, and we were jealous. That doesn't make what we did okay."
 - "I tried to stop my brothers from killing him. I wanted to sneak him out of the pit later... but he was already gone."
 - "Now I see how God used all of it to save us. I was wrong."
- Life Lesson: Even when we mess up, God gives us chances to do what's right.

Role: Potiphar's Wife

- **Key Verse:** Genesis 39:6–20
- ☐ Lines to Say:

- "Joseph worked in my home. He was a good servant—but he wouldn't do what I wanted."
- "I lied and said he tried to hurt me. He was innocent, but I was angry and embarrassed."
- "I did something wrong, and he suffered for it."
- Life Lesson: Telling lies hurts others. God's truth matters more than our feelings.
- 🤚 Role: Pharaoh's Cupbearer
- **Key Verses:** Genesis 40:9–14; 41:9–14
- ☐ Lines to Say:
 - "Joseph helped me in prison. He told me my dream meant I'd be set free—and it happened just like he said."
 - "I promised to remember him, but I forgot... until Pharaoh needed help with a dream too."
 - "Joseph explained Pharaoh's dream, and Pharaoh put him in charge of all Egypt!"
- Life Lesson: God gives gifts to His people to help others in surprising ways.
- 堵 Role: Defense Lawyer
- **Key Verse:** Genesis 45:4–8
- **◯** Lines to Say:
 - "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, Joseph was not arrogant—he was honest. God gave him those dreams."
 - "He didn't seek revenge. He forgave his brothers and saved their lives during a famine."
 - "Joseph said, 'God sent me before you to preserve life.' That sounds like a man on God's mission—not a show-off."
- Life Lesson: We can defend our faith by pointing to God's plan in the Bible.

Lesson 2 – Full Mock Trial Script

Joseph on Trial: Arrogant Brat or Chosen by God?

Key Scripture: Genesis 37; 39–45 (selected)

Trial Focus: Was Joseph just a boastful brother, or was he chosen by God for a greater purpose?

Cast of Characters

- Judge
- Bailiff
- Narrators (1–2)
- Joseph
- Reuben (Joseph's brother)
- Potiphar's Wife

- Pharaoh's Cupbearer
- Defense Lawyer(s)
- Prosecuting Lawyer(s)
- Jury (all remaining students)

[Scene Opens in a Courtroom Setting]

Bailiff (standing center):

"All rise! The Court of Ancient Egypt is now in session. The Honorable Judge Justice presiding."

Judge (takes seat):

"You may be seated. Today's case: *The People vs. Joseph*. We must determine—was Joseph just a prideful dreamer who caused his own problems, or did God choose him for a great purpose?"

Opening Narration

Narrator 1:

"Joseph was the 11th son of Jacob. His father loved him more than the others and gave him a colorful coat."

Narrator 2 (reads Genesis 37:3-4):

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons... and he made him a robe of many colors. But when his brothers saw... they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him."

Prosecution Begins

Prosecutor:

"Ladies and gentlemen, Joseph was full of himself. He bragged about dreams where his brothers bowed down to him. He knew it would make them angry!"

Joseph (steps forward):

"I had dreams from God. I didn't mean to boast—I just shared what I saw."

Prosecutor (to Reuben):

"Reuben, tell the court what Joseph was like."

Reuben:

"He was always talking about how we'd bow to him. We were jealous. One day, we threw him in a pit. I was going to rescue him, but he was sold to traders before I could."

Narrator 1 (reads Genesis 37:23-28):

"They stripped him of his robe... and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver."

Defense Begins

Defense Lawyer:

"Yes, Joseph was young and maybe didn't speak wisely. But everything that happened—God used it for good!"

Narrator 2 (reads Genesis 39:2):

"The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man..."

Potiphar's Wife (stands):

"I lied about Joseph. He wouldn't do what I wanted, so I accused him. He was innocent."

Joseph:

"I ended up in prison for something I didn't do. But even there, God stayed with me."

Cupbearer (steps forward):

"In prison, Joseph explained my dream. Later, when Pharaoh had a dream, I remembered Joseph!"

Narrator 1 (reads Genesis 41:14–16):

"Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph... and Joseph answered, 'It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Prosecutor Cross-Examines

Prosecutor:

"So you're saying God was behind all of this? Even when you were sold and imprisoned?"

Joseph:

"Yes. What others meant for evil, God used for good."

Narrator 2 (reads Genesis 50:20):

"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive."

Closing Statements

Defense Lawyer:

"Joseph wasn't arrogant—he was chosen. God used every part of his life to save Egypt and his family. He even forgave his brothers."

Prosecutor:

"Joseph could've handled things better. But I see that maybe... God really was with him."

Judge (nods thoughtfully):

"We've heard powerful testimony today. But the final decision is up to the jury."

Jury Deliberation

Judge:

"Jury, do you find Joseph guilty of being an arrogant brat—or not guilty because he was chosen by God?"

(F Let students vote with a show of hands and explain why.)

Judge's Conclusion

Judge:

"Thank you, jury. Today, we've learned something important: God can use even betrayal, prison, and pain to accomplish His good purposes."

Narrator Final Word

Narrator 1:

"Joseph's story reminds us that God is always working, even when we don't understand."

Narrator 2:

"And it points us to Jesus—who was also betrayed, punished unfairly, and yet saved us all."

Lesson 2 Teacher Guide – Joseph on Trial: Arrogant Brat or Chosen by God?

Bible Passages to Mark Ahead of Time

- Genesis 37:3–4, 5–11, 23–28
- Genesis 39:2; 39:6–20
- Genesis 40:9–14; 41:9–16
- Genesis 45:4–8
- Genesis 50:20

You may want to mark these in your own Bible or print them for readers who aren't yet fluent.

© Main Objectives

- Kids will understand how God used Joseph's suffering for a greater purpose.
- Kids will gain public speaking and critical thinking skills through roleplay.
- Kids will be equipped to defend their faith with Scripture.
- Kids will learn the power of forgiveness and trust in God's plan.

Q Big Life Lesson (Key Takeaway):

Even when bad things happen, God is still in control. He can use hardship to do something amazing!

🦰 Materials Needed

• Printed student sheets (one per role or per student)

- A Bible (ideally one per group or pair)
- Name tags or signs for each character (optional but helpful)
- A gavel (or something similar for the judge)
- Chairs/tables to create a mock courtroom
- Props or robes for fun (optional)

Suggested Timing (45–60 Minutes Total)

Activity	Time		
Welcome & Review	5 min		
Read Aloud Bible Verses	10 min		
Assign Roles & Rehearse Lines	10-15 min		
Perform the Mock Trial	15-20 min		
Jury Vote & Discussion	5 min		
Final Reflection & Prayer	5 min		

🛂 Teacher Prompts & Discussion Starters **Before the Trial Begins:**

- "Who remembers what happened in last week's trial?"
- "Has anything unfair ever happened to you? How did you feel?"
- "Today we'll see what happened to Joseph—was it his fault, or part of God's plan?"

During Role Assignment:

- Let kids pick their own roles or assign based on reading ability and confidence.
- Pair younger students with older ones if needed.

After the Trial – Discussion Questions:

- 1. Was Joseph bragging, or was he being honest about what God showed him?
- 2. How do you think Joseph felt when he was sold or put in prison?
- 3. Do you think Joseph could've still trusted God through it all?
- 4. Can you think of a time something bad happened in your life that God used for good?
- 5. How is Joseph's story similar to Jesus'?

LCMS Faith Connection:

- God's promises never fail, even when life feels out of control.
- Like Joseph, Jesus was innocent and yet suffered so others could be saved.
- Luther's explanation of the First Article reminds us: "He defends me against all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil."



"Heavenly Father, thank You for showing us through Joseph that You can use every part of our lives for good—even the hard stuff. Help us trust You when things go wrong and forgive like Joseph forgave. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Lesson 3: The People vs. Job – Faithful or Foolish?

Theme: Trusting God When Life Hurts

Key Scripture: Selections from the Book of Job (Job 1–2, 3, 38–42)

Trial Focus Question: Was Job wrong to question God—or did his faith remain strong through suffering?

Student Roles

- Job
- Job's Wife
- Eliphaz (Job's friend)
- Bildad (Job's friend)
- God (spoken by narrator or multiple voices)
- Satan (spoken carefully and age-appropriately)
- Defense Lawyer
- Prosecutor
- Narrators (2)
- Judge
- Jury (remaining students)

Student Sheets (summarized)

Job:

Wey Verse: Job 1:21

"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Job's Wife:

Key Verse: Job 2:9

O "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"

Eliphaz & Bildad:

○ "Job, you must have done something wrong for this to happen."

God (spoken through narrator or dramatic echo): Wey Verse: Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?" Satan (spoken seriously, not playfully): "But stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face." 🙅 Mock Trial Script Summary **Opening:** Job is accused of foolishness or lack of faith for complaining during suffering. **Prosecution:** Uses his lamenting words to argue that he didn't trust God. **Defense:** Shows how Job never cursed God, repented humbly, and was later blessed. **Testimonies:** Job's friends speak poorly of him. God rebukes them in the end. Narrator: Reads God's final response and Job's repentance (Job 42:1–6). Jury Vote: Was Job faithful or foolish? Teacher Guide Highlights Life Lesson: Faith doesn't mean we never struggle. We can bring our questions to God—but we still trust Him. Connection to Jesus: Jesus also suffered while innocent and never sinned. **Discussion Questions:** o Can we ask God "why"? Why did God say Job spoke rightly of Him? How does Job's story help us when we suffer? **Student Sheets – Lesson 3: The People vs. Job Big Question:** Was Job wrong to question God, or did he remain faithful? 🛂 CHARACTER: JOB Read aloud Job 1:21: "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Speaking Lines:

"I had everything—a family, animals, a home. Then, in one day, I lost it all." "My friends told me I must have sinned. Even my wife told me to curse God!"

"But I never did. I cried out to God. I asked Him why. But I never stopped believing in Him."

"At the end, I said to God, 'I spoke of things I didn't understand.' I humbled myself."

CHARACTER: JOB'S WIFE									
Read aloud Job 2:9:									
'Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"									
Speaking Lines: "I watched my husband suffer. He lost everything. I was angry too." "I told him to just give up on God—but he wouldn't." "Maybe I was wrong. He never stopped trusting."									
CHARACTER: ELIPHAZ (Friend 1)									
Speaking Lines: "Job, people suffer when they sin. You must have done something bad." "God is just. If you're hurting, you probably deserve it." "You should repent."									
CHARACTER: BILDAD (Friend 2)									
○ Speaking Lines: "Your kids died, your skin is covered in sores—are you still claiming to be innocent?" "If you just admit your guilt, maybe God will stop punishing you."									
CHARACTER: SATAN									
(Handled with care—should be read seriously, not jokingly)									
Read aloud Job 1:11:									
"Stretch out your hand and strike all he has, and he will curse you to your face."									
Speaking Lines: "Job only praises God because he's rich and happy." "Take away his blessings, and he'll turn against you." (Later) "He still won't curse God? Even with sores all over? Hmm"									
♥ CHARACTER: GOD									
(Lines can be read by narrator or multiple voices together for dramatic effect)									

Read aloud Job 38:4:

'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?"								
Speaking Lines: "Who are you to question Me?" "Were you there when I made the oceans, the stars, and the animals?" "I am God. My ways are higher than yours." (Job repents, and God restores his life.)								
S CHARACTER: DEFENSE LAWYER								
Speaking Lines: "Job lost everything—but he didn't lose his faith." "He asked questions, yes—but he never cursed God." "In the end, God said Job spoke rightly and even made him pray for his friends."								
Read aloud Job 42:10:								
"And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job and gave him twice as much as he had before."								
CHARACTER: PROSECUTING LAWYER								
Speaking Lines: "Job complained and doubted. He said, 'I wish I'd never been born!" "He may not have cursed God, but he definitely lost hope." "Is that really faith?"								
Reference Job 3:1:								
"Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth."								
♥ CHARACTER: NARRATOR 1								
Reads selected verses throughout:								
 Job 1:1–2 (introduce Job) Job 1:13–19 (his loss) Job 2:7–10 (his suffering) Job 38:1–4 (God speaks) Job 42:1–6 (Job responds) 								

≒ CHARACTER: NARRATOR 2

Optional transitions between scenes:
"Job was a righteous man—but Satan thought he only worshiped God for the blessings."

"His friends gave bad advice, but Job never turned away completely."

"In the end, God reminded Job that He is powerful and wise—and restored everything."

🧺 CHARACTER: JUDGE

"This courtroom must now decide: Was Job foolish to question God—or faithful through the storm?" (To jury) "You've heard the testimony. Was Job truly faithful or not?"



🧺 Lesson 3: Full Mock Trial Script

Trial Title: The People vs. Job

Case Question: Was Job faithful through suffering, or did he lose trust in God?

Scene: A Courtroom Setting

Characters: Judge, Narrators (2), Prosecuting Lawyer, Defense Lawyer, Job, Job's Wife, Eliphaz, Bildad, Satan, God (read by Narrator 2 or group), Jury (all other students)

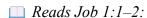
Act 1: Introduction

Narrator 1:

Welcome to Bible Court. Today's case is about a man named Job. He was faithful, wealthy, and blessed by God—but everything changed. Now we must ask: Did Job stay faithful to God, or did he fail when life became hard?

Narrator 2:

Let's begin with what the Bible says about Job.



"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. He was blameless and upright... and he had seven sons and three daughters."

Act 2: The Accuser and the Challenge

Narrator 1:

But in heaven, someone had questions about Job's faith.

Satan (serious tone):

Job only serves You because You gave him everything. Take it all away—and he'll curse You to Your face.

Narrator 2:

God allowed Satan to test Job—but not to take his life.

Reads Job 1:13–19: Job's animals, servants, and even children are all gone. Then, Satan strikes Job's health.
Job (holding head): My skin burns. My bones ache. My heart breaks.
Narrator 1: Even then, Job says Reads Job 1:21:
"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."
Act 3: The Trial Begins
Judge: This court is now in session. The People vs. Job. Prosecutor, you may begin.
Prosecuting Lawyer:
Your Honor, Job claimed to trust God—but listen to his own words!
Reads Job 3:1:
"Job cursed the day of his birth!"
Job said he wished he had never been born. That's not faith—that's giving up! And just listen to his friends
Eliphaz: Job, bad things happen to bad people. You must have sinned!
Bildad: Just say you're sorry to God. Admit you did something wrong!
Job: I didn't do anything wrong! I don't understand why this is happening! But I will not curse God.
Job's Wife: Curse God and die already! Why do you keep holding on?
Prosecuting Lawyer: Even his wife gave up. Job didn't curse God—but he doubted Him. Is that true faith?

Defense Lawyer:

Your Honor, Job	was hurting de	eeply. He lost h	is children,	his home,	and his health.	He asked "	Why?"—	-but he never
walked away fron	n God.							

Reads Job 2:10:

"Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

And what did God say in the end? Not that Job was wrong—but that his friends were!

Reads Job 42:7:

"You have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

Even God said Job spoke truthfully.

Job:

I asked questions, yes. But I never cursed Him. And when God answered me, I was humbled.

Reads Job 42:2–3:

"I know that You can do all things... Surely I spoke of things I did not understand."

Defense Lawyer:

God restored Job's life—not because Job was perfect, but because he remained faithful.

Reads Job 42:10:

"The Lord restored the fortunes of Job... and gave him twice as much as he had before."

Act 4: God Speaks

Narrator 2 (as God):

Reads Job 38:4:

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?"

Narrator 2 (or group as God):

"Do you give the horse its strength? Do you make the rain fall? Can you understand the ways of God? No—you cannot."

Act 5: The Verdict

Judge:

Thank you, everyone. Now, Jury—it's your turn. Was Job faithful, even though he struggled? Or was he foolish to question God?

(Jury Votes)

Judge (after vote):

Whatever your verdict, remember this: God knows our hearts. Job suffered greatly, but he never cursed God—and in the end, he trusted and worshiped the Lord.

Final Reflection (Led by Teacher or Narrator 1)

"Sometimes life is hard. We ask, 'Why, God?' But that doesn't mean we don't have faith. Like Job, we can bring our tears to God and trust that He is still in control. And just like Job, we know God will never leave us."

🎇 Teacher Guide – Lesson 3: The People vs. Job

Theme:

Faith in Suffering – Trusting God even when life is hard

Dbjective:

Students will explore the story of Job and participate in a mock trial to determine whether Job remained faithful or foolish when faced with suffering. They will learn that God invites honest questions but remains sovereign and good no matter our circumstances.

😺 Age Group:

Ages 6–12 (multi-age friendly with simplified roles and Scripture reading support)

Materials Needed:

- Printed student sheets
- Bibles (preferably ESV or another LCMS-friendly version)
- Judge's gavel or prop (optional)
- Name cards or simple costumes/labels for characters
- Jury vote slips or simple show-of-hands method

Time Frame:

Key Scriptures:

- Job 1:1–2, 1:13–22, 2:7–10, 3:1, 38:1–4, 42:1–10
- (Encourage older students to find and read passages directly)

© Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will:

- Retell the story of Job in their own words
- Participate in a mock trial using Scripture as evidence
- Understand that questioning is not the same as losing faith
- Recognize God's sovereignty even in suffering
- Grow in empathy, listening, and speaking skills

Opening Activity (5–10 minutes):

"Would You Still Trust?"

Ask students simple "what if" questions:

- What if you lost your favorite toy—would you still be thankful?
- What if you got sick—would you still pray?
- What if your prayers didn't get answered the way you want?

Use their answers to introduce Job: a man who lost everything and still said, "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Mock Trial Setup (30–35 minutes):

1. Assign Roles

Give each student a speaking part or assign them to the jury. Use name cards, props, or paper signs for Job, Job's Wife, etc.

2. Guide the Readings

Support younger readers with line-by-line coaching or pairing with older students.

3. Let the Trial Flow

Encourage natural reading and dramatic flair, but always point back to Scripture.

4. Facilitate the Jury Vote

Ask students to give one reason for their verdict. What convinced them Job was faithful? What showed his doubt?

Discussion & Life Application (10–15 minutes):

Use open-ended questions like:

- What does it mean to trust God even when you're sad or confused?
- Did Job do anything wrong when he asked God "why"?
- Why do you think God was proud of Job in the end?
- What does this story teach us about God's power and love?
- How is Job's suffering similar to Jesus' suffering?

Help students make connections to their own lives (school struggles, losing a pet, being sick, etc.) and how they can still talk to God in hard times.

f Faith Connection (Wrap-Up):

Point to Jesus:

"Job was innocent but suffered—that reminds us of Jesus, who was even more innocent and suffered for us. But in both stories, God brings restoration and hope."

Teacher Note on Theology (LCMS-aligned):

- Emphasize that faith is not the absence of questions, but the refusal to walk away from God.
- Job remained righteous not because he never struggled—but because he never *cursed* God or rejected Him.
- God rebuked Job's friends, not Job, for misrepresenting His ways.
- Encourage reverence when speaking "God's lines," and care when using the role of Satan—never silly or lighthearted.

🙏 Closing Prayer Suggestion:

"Dear God, thank You for always being with us, even when life is hard. Help us to trust You like Job did. Teach us to ask honest questions and still praise Your name. We love You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen."