

City SG - October 13-14, 2018

Bible Story: Just Can't Get Enough (Don't Be Controlled by Money) • *Hebrews 13:5*

Bottom Line: Stuff can't keep you happy.

Memory Verse: "Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has.'" *Luke 12:15 (NirV)*

1. Interactive Story

What You Need: "Story" Activity Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Gather the kids around you as you tell the story. Tell them you'll be giving some instructions as you read, and they should follow them.
- Read the story. Pause to let kids do the movements and say the words.
- After the story, ask the following questions:
 - What unwise choices did Joelle make?
 - What wise choices did Joelle make?

What You Say:

"Hebrews 13:5 says: *Don't be controlled by love for money. Be happy with what you have (NirV)*. Joelle wasn't happy with what she had, was she? And she made some unwise choices in her excitement to make money to buy her doll. She put so much focus on getting new stuff that she missed out on some really great times with her family and friends. But it sounds like, in the end, she was starting to make some wise choices. I think she realized that **[Bottom Line] stuff can't keep you happy**, and I hope you do too. I want you to understand that it's not wrong to have some things you want to do or have and work toward getting them, but think about what you might be giving up in order to get it. Don't let that thing control you."

2. Simon Says

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Play "Simon Says" together as a group.
 - Choose one kid to be "Simon."
 - Simon tells the rest of the group what they must do.
 - However, the others can only obey the actions Simon displays when he says, "Simon says."
 - If Simon does not say, "Simon says," first, then kids should not do the action. (Example: If Simon says, "Simon says touch your head," you will touch your head. If Simon says, "Touch your head," you will not touch your head.)
 - Encourage kids to do the actions themselves when they're Simon, and to move quickly, so as to try to confuse their peers!
- Continue as time and interest allow. Rotate Simons quickly in an effort to make sure everyone has a chance to be Simon.

What You Say:

"Whew! I always get confused when playing that game. You all did an amazing job at listening closely when Simon was telling you what to do. How did it make you feel to have all of your moves controlled by Simon? (Allow time for responses.) **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we learned about something else that can control us if we let it. Money. No matter what happens in life, we should always rely on God, and not money.**"

3. Would You Rather

What You Need: “A” and “B” papers on your walls or floor (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Point out the “A” and “B” papers to the group.
- Tell kids you’re going to give them a choice, and then they should run to either A or B, depending on which choice they would make.
- Read the choices in the list below.
- After each time kids run to A or B, ask for a volunteer to tell the group why they chose the option they did.
- Continue until all questions have been answered.

Would you rather have:

- A) three old video games or B) one brand new video game
- A) four tablets or B) one really big screen TV
- A) a birthday party with all of your friends or B) a trip to your favorite place on earth
- A) five tacos or B) one super stuffed burrito
- A) one week of half days at school or B) three days off school
- A) your favorite sports team winning one huge game or B) your least favorite team losing ten games
- A) 200 spoonfuls of hot sauce or B) one sardine
- A) clean the entire house by yourself for one day or B) do dishes every day for one year
- A) five small quizzes or B) one big test
- A) 500 jumping jacks or B) running one mile

What You Say:

“It was so fun trying to figure out the best answer possible for each question! Did any of you guys have a hard time deciding the best option? (*Allow time for responses.*) Twelve tacos sounded pretty amazing to some of you, but maybe not good enough to replace a video game. You see, having more of something doesn’t always equal having the better end of the deal. Even when we want more of something, we have to always remember that **[Bottom Line] stuff can’t keep you happy.** Why can’t stuff keep you happy? (*Promote answers such as: stuff eventually gets old, we get tired of it, there’s more to life than just having stuff, etc.*) Right! God made us for more than just people who have stuff or fun things. He wants us to be good friends to each other, to love our families and friends, and ultimately He created us to have a friendship with Him!”

4. On Your Guard

What You Need: “Shield” Activity Pages (1 per child), scissors, tape, markers, cardstock strips (1 per child), Bibles

What You Do:

- Read Luke 12:15 from the Bible.
- Tell kids that today you’re focusing on the “Be on your guard” part of the verse.
 - Explain that means you watch out, and then when something is coming at you, you do what you can to keep it from hitting and hurting you.
- Hand out the shields. Instruct the kids to cut them out.
- Explain that a long time ago, people would use metal shields to protect themselves. They would hold a shield up in front of them to keep arrows or spears from hitting and hurting them.
- Tell kids that when you are on your guard against things that can make you discontent, you need to do things to help you be content.
- Remind kids of the symbols and things you talked about last week:
 - Bible: You can read the Bible and remember verses you’ve memorized.
 - Question Mark: You can ask God for help to be content.
 - Mouth: You can talk to God when you have a bad attitude.
- Ask kids to draw a picture of themselves being on their guard against discontentment.

- Then help kids use the cardstock strips to create a handle for their shields.
 - Tape one end of the strip several inches from the top of the back of the shield.
 - Create an arch with the strip, and tape the other end so it leaves some room in the middle to grab onto the handle.

What You Say:

“These actual shields won’t stop discontentment, but if we do the things we drew on them, we can have a better chance of being content.”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Kids’ shields from the “On Your Guard” activity

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to stand in a circle.
- Pray for the kid on your left, asking God to help him be on his guard against discontentment.
- Encourage that kid to pray for the kid on his left.
- Continue all the way around the circle. If a kid doesn’t feel comfortable praying out loud, you can pray for the kid on her left.

What You Say:

“Today we learned that ***[Bottom Line]*** **stuff can’t keep you happy.** We need to continue to ask God to help us be content with what we have.”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!