

City SG - October 27-28, 2018

Bible Story: Don't Look Back (Israelites Long for Egypt) • *Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7*

Bottom Line: Don't miss out on what you have now.

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. Just for Fun

What You Need: Paper and markers

What You Do:

- Provide a piece of paper and marker to every kid.
- Ask: "What kind of invention do you think should be made in the future that will help us with something we don't have now?"
 - If kids have trouble making up an invention, ask: "What do you think is the coolest invention we have? What's something that helps us do something we couldn't do before?"
 - You can give examples such as the computer, video games, planes, trains, cars, peanut butter, the cotton gin, etc.
- Encourage your group to draw the invention on their paper.
- After kids have finished, allow them to share their invention with the group.

What You Say:

"Those were all great inventions, and I'm sure they would be super helpful to us in the future. While the future is exciting, today in Large Group we learned to not look back, focus on the now, and be excited about the future. God has our future in His hands!"

2. Future Fast Forward

What You Need: "Shield" Activity Pages (one per kid), scissors, tape, markers, cardstock strips (one per kid)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a shield and set the markers where everyone can reach them.
- Encourage your group to draw a mural of all the things that kids can do that adults cannot (on their shield).
- Brainstorm a few ideas before they get started. Kids can play instead of having to go to work, do silly things that adults would be embarrassed to do, take naps, and make friends easily and less awkwardly.
- While the kids are thinking and drawing, draw your own illustration of what you miss most about being a kid.
- After kids are finished, allow them to share their drawings with the rest of the group.
- **[Make It Personal] (Show your own drawing, explaining what you feel like you are missing out on by not being a kid anymore!)**
- Help kids cut out the shield and 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:

"I know it seems like there are so many awesome things you can do when you get older, but you all had some amazing thoughts and ideas on what adults are missing out on! You did a great job focusing on what's right in front of you. Just like the Israelites in our story today, we can get distracted thinking about what we don't have instead of seeing what we have right now. Do you remember why the Israelites were complaining? (*Allow time for responses.*) That's right! And what did they have right in front of them that they were totally missing out on?"

(Allow time for kids to discuss the story and answer.) The next time you are tempted to be discontent with where God has you, remember, **[Bottom Line] don't miss out on what you have now.**"

[Make It Personal] (Share a personal story from a time you found yourself being discontent in a season God had you in and how you learned to not miss out on what you had.)

3. May I?

What You Need: "Questions" Activity Page in a bowl (one per group)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to stand side-by-side on one side of your space, so they're facing you.
- Explain that during this game, before each question is read, kids get to pick an age group and then make that age group's pose.
 - Baby: Get on hands and knees.
 - Their age: Stand in a superhero pose.
 - Sixteen-year-old: Pretend like they're driving a car.
- Call out the age groups a few times, letting kids strike those poses. Make sure they know what the categories and poses are before starting the game.
- After you ask the question, kids need to figure out which age group the question represents. Then the kids who picked the correct age group get to take one giant step forward.
- To start, say, "Pose!" and pull a question out of the bowl.
- Read the question, and let kids decide whether they get to take a step.
- After each one, have a quick discussion about which age group was able to take the step and why.
- Continue for as long as you wish. You can repeat the questions, because kids won't know which age group is coming when they make their pose choice.

What You Say:

"There are some things you could do as a baby that you can't—or shouldn't—do now. And there are things you can do now that you couldn't do when you were a baby and probably can't do when you're a teenager. And there are things you'll be able to do when you're a teenager that you can't do now. But what we need to focus on is the things we have and the things we can do now. What are some awesome things you can do now? (Let kids give answers; remind them of the game they just played, if they are at a loss for responses.) So **[Bottom Line] don't miss out on what you have now!**"

[Make It Personal] (Share about something you can do now that you couldn't do when you were younger and that you might not be able to do when you're a lot older. Make sure to keep it age appropriate and something kids could potentially relate to, like running a cool road race, buying and playing a brand-new video game as soon as it comes out, going to the movies.)

4. Manna, Manna Everywhere

What You Need: Piece of cloth (1 per group), confetti/paper scraps (1 large bag per group), cups (1 per kid), timer/phone

What You Do:

- Spread out the cloth. Scatter the "manna/bread" (confetti, etc.) all over it.
- Give each kid a small cup.
- Tell kids that the confetti is manna/bread from the story.
 - Their job is to collect as much manna as they can in 1 minute (adjust this time as needed) – using only the cup, not their hands.
 - However, when you start to ask a question, they must stop until someone correctly answers the question.
 - Then on your command, they can start collecting manna again.

- Set the timer and begin. Ask a question every 15-20 seconds.
- Questions:
 - Why weren't the Israelites happy with Moses at the beginning of today's story? (*they were hungry*)
 - What did God give them to eat in the mornings? (*bread/manna*)
 - What did God give them to eat in the evenings? (*meat/quail*)
 - What did the bread look like? (*frost or flakes*)
 - Did the people all gather the same amount? (*no*)
 - Did everyone have enough to eat? (*yes*)
 - Why weren't the Israelites happy with Moses at the end of the story? (*they were thirsty and bored with the food*)
 - What did Moses do to get them water? (*he hit the rock with his walking stick*)

What You Say:

"Let me see how much manna you gathered. (*Take a quick look in everyone's cup.*) Wow! You gathered just the exact right amount! Why is it just right? Because you followed my instructions. When the Israelites followed God's instructions, they had just enough manna too. But they weren't always happy with what they had, were they? No, they thought they had it better back in Egypt when they were slaves. WRONG! They so didn't. God took care of them in the desert. It might not have been exactly what they wanted, but it was what God knew was best for them. He ALWAYS gives us what's best for us right now. **[Bottom Line] Don't miss out on what you have now** because you're thinking about what you used to have or what you want to have tomorrow. Be content with what God has given you today."

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids in a quick review discussion. Ask a couple questions to get them talking:
 - What's one thing you want that keeps you from being content?
 - What can you do when you feel like you really want that thing, and you're not content with what you have now?
- If your group knows each other pretty well, let them pair off and answer the above questions with a partner.
- Pray over the group as you finish out this month.

What You Say:

"God, I thank You so much for the amazing people sitting in this circle. I know You have big plans for each of them and I can't wait to see all of them follow after You. I pray that they always dream big and do their best. As they do this, I also pray that they would do so with a heart of deep contentment. I believe You will help them stay focused on what You have given them. In Jesus' name, amen!"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING

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

EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY: If you need to, play another round of "Manna, Manna Everywhere" with your group.