

Alley SG—November 21st-22nd, 2021

Today's Bible Story: In My Life (Israelites Long for Egypt) • *Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7*

Today's Key Question: What is good in your life right now?

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

Monthly Memory Verse: Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Luke 12:15 NIV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Containers (9 per group), floor tape, ball pit balls (2 sets of 10 per Group)

What You Do:

- Set nine containers in a 3x3 grid on the floor. You may need to secure them with floor tape on bottom.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Using floor tape, create a throwing line about 10 feet from the grid.
- Instruct teams to stand behind the line.
- Give each team a set of ball pit balls.
- Teams will compete to be the first to get three ball pit balls in a row, taking turns tossing them into the containers.
- If the ball lands in a container, teams must answer the question, "What is good in your life right now?"
- The first team to get three in a row wins.
- Play several rounds. Be sure everyone gets an opportunity to throw.
- Ask:
 - Why is it important to remember what is good in your life RIGHT NOW?
 - What are things that keep us from seeing what is good in our life RIGHT NOW?

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Paper plates (10 per group per service), markers, buzzer (1 per group), *optional: mobile device timer*

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- To review the Bible story, ask:
 - What was good in the Israelites' life?
 - How did God provide for the Israelites?
- Write the answers (or let kids write) on paper plates, one answer for each paper plate.
- Ideally, you'll end up with a paper plate for each kid in the group, minus one.
- Ask:
 - What was the Israelites' response to what God had done for them?
 - What did they miss out on by whining and complaining?
- On a paper plate, write CONTENTMENT in big letters.
- Shuffle the plates and place them face down in a circle.
- Set out enough paper plates that **all but one kid** will have one when the music stops.
- Tell kids to stand on a plate.
- Play a game like musical chairs.
 - Using a mobile device, set a timer or play some upbeat music.
 - **NOTE: If you do not have a mobile device, simply say "STOP!" at random, or hit the Buzzer.**
 - Kids move from one plate to another. When the timer goes off or the music stops, kids try not to be the last one to stand on a paper plate.
 - The last kid to grab a plate is out, and gets to choose a plate to remove from the circle.

- After they read what's written on the plate, start the music or timer again and prompt kids to start walking around the circle.
- Continue until only one plate is left.
- Use the following to bring the game and conversation home:
 - The Israelites were very focused on what they had in Egypt, and they missed out on what was good in their life RIGHT NOW. What can we miss out on if we are focused on what we don't have RIGHT NOW?
 - How can focusing on "the now" help us to be content?

3. Discussion Questions

- How did God interact with the Israelites? How would you describe God based on His interaction with the Israelites?
- What are some ways God provided for the Israelites? What are some ways God provides for us?
- What do you think you might miss out on in the future if you're not content and thankful for what is happening in your life right now?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, "Verse Cards" (1 card per student)

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Engage kids in conversation.
 - Ask: Can anyone recite the memory verse for this month, Luke 12:15?
 - **NOTE: Give Alley Cash as an incentive for anyone that can recite the Verse.**
- For further discussion, read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
- Ask:
 - How could memorizing 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 help you to "be on your guard against wanting more and more"?
 - Why would giving thanks for what is good in your life RIGHT NOW help you to learn to be content?
 - What does contentment have to do with being joyful?
 - Why is prayer important when learning how to be content?
- Give kids a "Verse Card."
- Challenge them to memorize Luke 12:15 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 this week.
 - NOTE: See if any kids can memorize there, in the moment, during your Small Group!

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: "Verse Cards" from the Verses to Take with You Activity

What You Do:

- Give kids time to pray to God, thanking Him for what He has provided them today and asking for His help to see what is good in their life RIGHT NOW.
- Encourage kids to write their prayer on the back of their "Verse Card" from the Verses to Take with You Activity.
- Give kids an opportunity to share their prayer with the group.