

Alley SG—November 7th-8th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Be OK Be (Content/Paul in Prison) • *Philippians 4:11b-13*

Today's Key Question: When is it hardest to be content?

Today's Bottom Line: God can help you be content.

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: "OK? Cards" (2 sets per Group), floor tape, markers

What You Do:

- Divide the group into 2 teams.
- Give each team a set of OK? Cards.
- Create a "Contentment Scale" for each team, by doing the following:
 - Place a piece of floor tape (about three feet long) in front of each team.
 - Instruct teams to write "EASY" on the left side of the tape and "HARD" on the right side of the tape.
- Tell teams to place their OK? Cards along their "Contentment Scale" according to whether it would be easy or hard to be okay with the scenario listed on the card.
- The situation in which it would be the easiest to show contentment goes to the far left of the scale; the hardest scenario to the far right; and the rest of the cards are ranked in between.
- Scenarios are:
 - Your hair isn't cooperating and kind of looks weird?
 - You get to eat whatever you want for dinner?
 - Your friend gets a new bike and your bike is old?
 - Your parents say "no" to something you want to do but your friend's parents said "yes" to them?
 - You try out for the soccer team and make it?
 - You have to sing a solo in the choir concert?
 - You forget your lunch?
 - Your brother gets a more ice cream than you do?
 - When kids have finished, gather the group back together and review how they ranked the cards.
- Use the following to start and guide the conversation:
 - Did any teams rank the scenarios the same way?
 - Discuss any differences. (*This provides the opportunity to talk about how each of us have different things we struggle with when it comes to being okay with what we have. One kid may love to sing and so it is easy to be okay singing a solo in the choir. Another kid may find it hard to sing in front of people and so it is hard being okay singing a solo in the choir.*)
 - What makes it hard to be content? When is it easy to be content?
 - Encourage kids to share examples of when it was hard for them to be content.
 - What are some ways people react when things don't go their own way?
 - **[Make it Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when it was hard for you to be content. What did you learn from the situation that helped you be content in the future?)**

2. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Paper plates (1 per student), markers, Bibles

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible.
- Look up Luke 12:15 and read it together out loud.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Luke. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*New*) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. It's the third of the four gospels (*Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*). When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 15 in chapter 12.

- Give each kid a paper plate and instruct them to write the verse on the plate.
- When everyone is finished, ask kids to use one hand balance their plate on their palm (or fingertips) like a restaurant server carrying a serving platter.
- When you say go, kids try to knock each other's plates off their hands while guarding their plate.
- If a kid's plate falls, they are out for the round.
- The last kid left still balancing his plate wins the round.
- Play a few rounds as time and interest allow.
- Gather kids together.
- Ask:
 - How can we be on our guard against wanting to have more and more?
 - What could be some consequences of not being okay with what we have?
 - What are some consequences of learning contentment?
 - What are ways we can learn to be okay with what we have?

3. Brainstorm

What You Need: Index cards (10 per group), pens

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- As a group, brainstorm things we learn to do.
- Write each example on an index card.
- Although kids will provide lots of correct answers, the cards will be used for a game of charades, so limit what you choose to write on the index cards to examples you think kids can act out.
 - Examples could include: tying your shoe, reading a book, playing basketball, writing, riding a bike, dancing, etc.
- Place the cards face down in the center of the circle.
- Let kids take turns selecting a card and silently acting it out.
- Challenge the group to guess what it is each kid is learning to do.

4. Just for Fun

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to get into pairs.
- Both kids make a fist and then together they say, "Add It Up."
- When they say "Up," they hold out between 1 and 5 fingers on their hand.
- The first kid to correctly add up the number of fingers showing and shout out the sum gets a point.
 - For example: If one kid holds out 4 fingers and the other kid holds out 2 fingers, the first kid to say 6 earns a point.
- After a few rounds, tell kids to switch partners.
- Ask kids to keep track of the number of games they win. Whoever wins the most games is the overall winner.

5. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What can influence whether we are content or not?
- When is it hardest for you to be content?
- What are some ways we can learn to be content?
- What do you know about God that can help you be content? (*This can be fast paced – it is just to provide a review of what truths we know about God.*)
- Do you have to be happy with what you have to be content? Why or why not?

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Explain that one way we can learn to be content is to be thankful. Provide the following prompts and encourage kids to finish the sentence as a prayer, either aloud or silently.
 - God, I am thankful You are . . .
 - God, I am thankful for the Bible. One thing I learned today was . . .
 - God, I am thankful You will help me content when it is hard, especially when . . .
 - God, I am thankful You are with me always and are teaching me how to be content in all circumstances. Amen.