

City SG—November 14th-15th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: I Want It That Way (King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard) •
1 Kings 21:1-19, 27

Today's Bottom Line: Wanting more and more can make you miserable.

Monthly 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. Opening Activity

What You Need: Paper and pens

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen.
- Ask kids to think of one thing that they really want. It can be something they've seen in an advertisement or something someone else has.
- Direct the kids not to share their answers with anyone.
- Instruct the kids to write or draw that item.
- Collect the papers and fold them in half.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Arrange the teams in two opposing lines with a six-foot gap between them.
- Assign each kid a number. It might be easiest to keep track of team numbers by assigning one team even numbers and the other team odd numbers.
- Place one of the folded papers in the center of the playing area.
- Tell kids that when you call out their number, they should run toward the center, steal the folded paper from the floor, and run back to their team's side without getting tagged by the other kid.
 - If they get tagged, the opposite team keeps the folded paper.
- Call out two numbers—one number from each team.
- Ask the kid who successfully steals the paper to look at it and tell the group what they "stole."

What You Say:

"It's okay to want things. God made lots of good things in this world, and it's fine to want some of them! But we can go too far when we want something. Wanting something someone else has can make us do crazy things sometimes."

2. Deal?

What You Need: "Review Questions" Page and "Deals" prepared gameboard (1 set per Group)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Choose a team to go first and ask a review question to one of the kids on the team.
 - If the question is answered correctly, give that team three points.
 - Instruct the kid who answered the question to talk with their team and decide if they want to keep the points or play "Deal" to try to score additional points.
 - This may or may not increase their chances of scoring additional points.

- If the kid chooses to play “Deal,” let them pick a number from the gameboard.
- Remove the sticky note with the corresponding number and read what the team won or lost.
- Once a number is selected, it can’t be chosen again.
- Continue the game by choosing a kid from the other team to take a turn.
- Play until each kid has had a turn.

What You Say:

“How many of you now wish your team had kept the original score instead of taking a deal? There were some great deals made, but wanting more didn’t always leave you with the best option. Ahab learned that **[Bottom Line] wanting more and more can make you miserable**, didn’t he? Instead of considering other options, he and Jezebel stole what belonged to Naboth’s family and hurt them in order to get what Ahab wanted. They also paid a high price for being discontent.

“When we want what others have, we need to remember not to be like Ahab. It’s okay to want things. But when our wanting leads us to hurt someone else or forget the good things God has already given us, we’ve gone too far. **[Bottom Line] Wanting more and more can make you miserable.** God wants us to remember all the good things He has given us so we can be content with what we have.”

Note: You might have kids from a wide range of economic status represented in your small group. It might be important to make a distinction between wanting basic needs and wants. Wanting your basic needs fulfilled is not wrong. It’s when we already have an abundance of things and make a habit of wanting more that we cross over into discontentment.

[Make It Personal] (Share a personal story from a time you found yourself wanting what someone else had. Did you sulk or throw a temper tantrum? Were you able to gain contentment, or did you let it make you miserable?)

3. More

What You Need: Plastic Spoons, Large Bag of Gems, and floor tape

What You Do:

- Tape a line to divide the playing area in half.
- Divide your group into two even teams.
- Scatter an even amount of gems in each team’s playing area.
- When you start the game, kids will run **one at a time** to the opposite side of their area, place as many gems as they think they can carry on their spoon at one time, and bring them back to their side. Then the next kid in line goes, and so on.
 - If a kid drops a gem from their spoon, they CANNOT place it back on.
 - **NOTE: The temptation will be to say “It’s ok” and allow the kids to continue, but please resist for the sake of the lesson.** 😊
 - The team with the most gems on their side at the end of the game, wins.

NOTE: Some kids might attempt to grab more gems than they can handle. If this happens, it’s okay. You’re actually setting up that opportunity as a teachable moment.

What You Say:

“What was the goal of this game? *(Pause for responses.)* That’s right! To collect as many gems as possible!

“How many of you wanted your team to win? *(Pause for responses.)* Some of you might have been tempted to grab more than you could carry, just so your team could win.

“This game is a picture of what happens when we want something really badly. Wanting to win, or wanting something you don’t have, is not a bad thing unless it makes you do things you shouldn’t. For example, it’s okay to want a new pair of shoes. But if we can only think about those shoes, if we’re jealous towards someone because we feel like they have cooler shoes, or someone else’s cool shoes makes us forget about the new shoes we just got, that’s where we cross over into discontentment and misery. It’s important to ask God to help us remember all the things we do have when we feel discontent because ***[Bottom Line]* wanting more and more can make you miserable.**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Say:

“God, You are so good! Thank You for all the wonderful things, experiences, memories, and relationships You have given us. There are times when we really want something, and it can become all we focus on. There are times when we want what our friends and neighbors have. Please help us have content hearts by remembering what we do have. We know You will always take care of what we need. ***[Bottom Line]* Wanting more and more can make you miserable**, so I know You will help us with this. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”