

City 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 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 wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."* Luke 12:15 (NirV)

1. Manna Madness

What You Need: Set of Manna Balls cards (12) and blank sheets (4) for each group each service, Manna Balls Answers" Page (1 per group), containers (2 per group), plastic spoons (8 per group) and pens

What You Do:

- Take clipped pile of manna cards/blank cards and have kids help you crumple into balls.
- Give each kid a small plastic spoon.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Direct each team to stand against opposite walls, facing each other.
- Place an empty container against each team's wall.
- Scatter the paper balls on the floor
- On your signal, instruct the teams to use only their spoons to pick up as many manna balls as they can and put them in their team's container.
- The kids cannot touch the "manna" with anything other than the spoon.
- When all of the manna balls have been picked up, ask the teams to open their papers and set aside any blank cards they have.
 - Then split up the question cards to be sure both teams have an even number of questions.
- Instruct kids to work together as a team to read their questions and write answers on the back of cards.
 - For every correct answer, the team earns five points.
 - For every incorrect answer, deduct two points and offer the opposite team a chance to answer the question.
- End by asking the teams to count the number of blank cards they collected.
- Deduct three points for each manna ball without a question.
- Tally the score and declare a winner.

(collect balls and discard them, so next service can start with fresh ones)

What You Say:

"Picking up the manna with small spoons was a lot of work, wasn't it? *(Pause for responses.)* In spite of that, it looked like you had fun rushing to pick up as many manna balls as you could! Do you think I ruined the fun by deducting points for the manna balls that didn't have a question on them? *(Pause for responses.)*

"It would be so easy to complain when a situation like that happens, wouldn't it? The Israelites whined and complained about what they didn't have instead of being happy with what they did have. God led them out of slavery and provided everything they needed in the desert.

"Sometimes we think that having more and more things will make us content, but as this game just showed us, having more isn't always the best. The team that had more pieces didn't have a fair chance at winning the game, did they? Wanting something else or focusing on what we don't have keeps us from enjoying what we DO have or realizing how God provides for us at the moment. **[Bottom Line] Don't miss out on what you have now.**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you wanted something more, better, or bigger so much that it kept you from enjoying what you already had. Maybe you wanted a nicer, bigger house. Or maybe you wanted to have a better, more fun job. Tell kids what you did to become content with the situation.)

2. What's Missing?

What You Need: "What's Missing?" Page (1 per kid), "Clues" Page (1 per Group); and pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "What's Missing?" Page and a pen.
- Explain that the pictures are identical, except one picture is missing ten items.
- Instruct the kids to compare the two pictures and find the ten missing items.
- When they find the missing item, direct the kids to draw the item in the picture in its proper place.
- Once all ten items are found, talk about what the items are.
- The "Clues" Page contains the master list of missing items for the leader.

What You Say:

"I love solving puzzles like this. I always rush to solve what's missing, then I'm sad when it's over! I can get so excited about finding the missing items that I miss out on the fun of checking out what the picture is all about."

3. Thankfulness Relay

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to form a circle.
- Ask the kids to think of something they're thankful for that starts with the same letter as their name.
- Invite the kids to go around the circle and introduce themselves by sharing their name and what they are thankful for. *(For example, "My name is Luke, and I'm thankful for lollipops.")*
- Instruct the next kid in the circle to repeat the last kid's statement and add their own. *(For example, "My name is Lindsey, and I'm thankful for light. His name is Luke, and he is thankful for lollipops.")*
- Continue playing a few rounds as long as time allows. Have kids pick new things they're thankful for in each new round.
- End by reminding kids that there are always a lot of things to be thankful for.

4. Bicycle Chain Cross

What You Need: "Cross" Activity Page (1 per kid) and markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Cross" Activity Page.
- Set out the markers for the kids to share.
- Read the Bottom Line together and invite kids to color their cross.
- Engage them in conversation about the picture.

What You Say:

"Great job of coloring this bicycle chain cross. Making a cross with an old bicycle chain is a creative way to use something you no longer need and make something new, and you can be content with your new item. What has God done for you or given you that you can learn to be content with? *(Pause for responses. Remind kids of all the things they said they were thankful for earlier in group time.)*

"What's the most exciting thing coming up in the next few months? *(Invite responses.)* What's the most exciting thing you can think of that might happen next year? *(Invite responses.)*

"There are some great things ahead of us! But imagine if you were only focused on those fun things to come. Would you miss out on anything? *(Invite responses.)* You would! By focusing on what you don't have or on things coming up, you'd miss things like fun times with friends, learning something cool at school, or time with family.

Instead of looking back at what you had before or looking forward to what you hope will happen in the future, look at what you have, right now. This week, look for things you can be content with so you **[Bottom Line] don't miss out on what you have now.**"

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to form a circle.
- Prompt the kids to silently reflect on something they have now that they can learn to be content with to avoid missing out. (*Some prompts: a new pair of shoes, clothing, toy, or game; opportunity to join a team; learn a new instrument or go on vacation*)
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, thank You so much for being good and kind and loving. Thank You for taking care of everything we need. Please give us hearts that are content. Please help us remember what You have given us so we don't miss out on what we have now. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"