

City SG—November is 7th-8th, 2021

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

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

1. Escaping House Arrest

What You Need: "Wheel and Arrow" Game Board (1 per Group); "Review Questions" Page (1 per Group); and floor tape (room supplies)

What You Do:

- Make an outline of a house big enough for a child to stand in with floor tape.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Let kids on each team take turns spinning the spinner.
 - If the spinner lands on "house arrest," direct the kid to stand somewhere inside the outline of the house.
 - If the spinner lands on "set the prisoner free," ask the kid a review question.
 - If the kid answers incorrectly, instruct them to go under "house arrest" by standing inside the outline of the house.
 - If the kid answers correctly, they set their teammates free from "house arrest."

What You Say:

"What would you have done if you were in Paul's shoes going through so many hard situations? (*Pause for responses.*) Do you think it was easy for Paul to be content in the difficult situations he was in? (*Pause for responses.*)

"Paul trusted God. Paul trusted that God was always with him. He trusted that God loved him. And Paul trusted that God was working for good, even if things were bad or hard. Because Paul trusted God, Paul learned to be content, no matter what happened to him. He learned to look at his difficult situations differently.

"Most likely, none of you will face all those hard situations Paul did. But I also know that things aren't always easy or peaceful. When hard things happen, we can learn to trust God like Paul did. Because God loves us, He is always with us. He is always working toward something good—even when things are hard. It's hard to be content when things don't go the way we want them to, but God can teach us how. **[Bottom Line] God can help you be content**, no matter what happens."

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about when things did not go well for you. How did God help you find contentment despite your circumstances?)

2. Guard Yourself

What You Need: Memory Verse Cards (1per kid, use also in last activity), floor tape, ping pong balls (15 per group)

What You Do:

- Help kids find Luke 12:15 in their Bibles using the navigation tips below.
- Read the verse together as a group several times.

Finding verses with 1st-3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.* When the kids find the table of contents, lead

them to find Luke in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Luke, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Luke. Help the kids find the page. When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 15 in chapter 12.

- Tape large squares on the floor in random places. (You can enlist the kids’ help with this.)
- Tell kids that the squares are “safe zones.”
- Direct the kids to stand on one side of your area.
- Give each kid a “Memory Verse Card.”
- Tape a long finish line on the opposite side of your area.
- The goal of the game is for the kids to transport their cards to the finish line while “guarding” themselves from being hit with ping pong balls.
 - o You can hit the kids at any time as long as they’re not standing on a “safe zone.”
 - **NOTE: Softly toss the ping pong balls!**
 - o The kids can dodge being hit by strategically using the “safe zones” to move towards the finish line.
 - o Only one kid is allowed on each safe zone.
 - o If two kids land on the same safe zone, you can hit them.
- At the end of the game, let kids tell the group how many times they think they got hit with a ping pong ball.

What You Say:

“You had to watch out for my every move to guard yourselves! Our verse tells us to ‘Watch out!’ and to be on ‘guard.’ That means we need to be on the lookout when other people have things we want or when they get to do things we can’t because it can make us discontent.

“When is it hard for you to be content? What kinds of things should you watch out for? (*Pause for responses. Answers include: Someone has a video game I really want. My sister gets an extra treat before bedtime. My friend has a phone, but I’m not allowed to have one.*) It’s not always easy to be content, but God can teach us how! And we can ask Him to help us. Remember, **[Bottom Line] God can help you be content.**”

3. Bible Story Memory Match

What You Need: “Paul Memory Match Cards” (2 sets per Group)

What You Do:

- Split your Group into 2 Teams.
- Give each team the Paul Memory Match Cards.
- Shuffle the “Paul Memory Match Cards.”
- Place the cards face down in a grid pattern.
- Guide kids to play a memory game.
 - o Instruct the kids to take turns turning over two cards.
 - o If a kid finds a match on their turn, direct them to set the match aside and take another turn.
 - o If a kid doesn’t find a match, direct them to return the two cards to their original spots face down in the grid.
 - o Play moves to the next kid.
 - o Repeat until all matches are found.
- After all matches are found, hold up each picture and talk about what happened to Paul.
 - o A shipwreck: Paul was shipwrecked *three* times.
 - o An angry crowd: Paul was in danger from crowds who didn’t like that he was telling others about Jesus.
 - o An empty waterskin: Paul often went thirsty.

- o Paul sitting in front of an empty plate: Paul often went hungry.
- o A mob of robbers: Paul was in danger from robbers who wanted to steal what he had.
- o Prison bars: Paul was thrown in prison just for telling others about Jesus.

What You Say:

“Whoa. (*Point to each card as you talk about it.*) Paul often went hungry and thirsty. He was shipwrecked THREE times. He faced crowds of angry people. And he was thrown in prison just for talking about Jesus.

“But through it all, Paul learned the secret to being content or okay with what happened to him. In Philippians 4:12, Paul wrote, ‘I know what it’s like to not have what I need.’ Just look at all these lows. Paul definitely faced hard things. He went on to write, ‘I also know what it’s like to have more than I need.’ That’s like the highs side. Then he wrote, ‘I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens . . . I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength.’

“Paul learned to be content with the highs and the lows. How? Because of his relationship with God! Paul trusted that God was with Him. Paul learned that **[Bottom Line] God can help you be content.**

[Make it Personal] (Tell your few about an age-appropriate low from this past week. How did you face it? How did knowing God was with you help you find contentment even in a not-so-awesome moment?)

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Cards from “Guard Yourself” Activity and pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a card and a pen.
- Prompt kids to think about the situations they talked about earlier—times when it’s hard to be content.
- Instruct them to write a short sentence on the back of their card describing that situation or thing.
- Give kids a moment to pray silently and ask God to help them learn to be content in this situation.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, it’s not always easy to be content, but we know You’ll help us when we ask. We want to learn to be okay when we don’t get something we want or when we face a difficult situation. Please help us learn to be content in all things and at all times. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.