



OCTOBER THEME

MORE OR LESS
The Choice is Yours!

BIBLE STORY

1 Kings 21:1-19, 27

Sour Grapes | King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard

BOTTOM LINE

Wanting what others have can make you miserable (and stuff can't keep you happy)

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, NIV

LIFE APP

Contentment | Deciding to be okay with what you have

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **CONTENTMENT** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

THIS WEEK—Key Question: What can you do when all you can think about is what someone else has? When we see something cool that someone else has we can go crazy with jealousy. From new sneakers to new mobile devices, there will always be someone with something we want for ourselves. Rather than going crazy, what can we do about it? We pray that families walk away with a plan for how they can respond when they want what someone else has.

This week we head to a story found in **1 Kings 21:1-19, 27**, where we discover what happens when King Ahab finds a plot of land he wants more than anything. But there's a problem: Naboth owns the land, and this land has been in his family for generations. King Ahab and his wife Queen Jezebel go to extreme lengths to take that land for themselves. In the end though, King Ahab was miserable.

Bottom Line: Wanting what others have can make you miserable (and stuff can't keep you happy). We have all probably experienced this bottom line first hand. Yet, that doesn't stop us the next time we find ourselves working out whatever scheme we can to get something new that we've seen at a friend's house, at school or work. We want families to be aware that this happens and trust God to help us find contentment in what God has already given to us.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each group member by name. Pray that they would understand that it's not wrong to like something someone else has or to even want to have one, too. The problem is when that desire leads to bad feelings toward the other person, like jealousy or anger. Ask God to help kids discern the difference between those feelings, and pray that kids will choose contentment: deciding to be okay with what they have.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Copy paper, markers

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to pair up and face their partners.
- Give each child a piece of copy paper and set out the markers where everyone can share them.



- Tell kids to all look as miserable or unhappy as they can.
- Guide them to draw their partner's face.
- OPTION: If you have a phone, take pictures of your group members making unhappy faces. Vote to determine who looks the most miserable.

●● MY NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask one of the kids to begin the game by finishing the following sentence: "I went to my neighbor's house, and they had one fill in the blank." (example: *swimming pool, puppy, x-box etc.*)"
- Tell the next person to say, "I went to my neighbor's house, and they had (whatever was previously mentioned) and two fill in the blank."
- Continue going around the circle as many times as possible until someone forgets or names the wrong item.

What You Say: "How many of the things mentioned in our game do you wish you had? (*Pause for responses.*) If you've ever been envious of what someone else had, you probably know that the longer you think about it, the more miserable you feel. Jealousy, greed, and envy can rear their ugly heads at any time and make people do crazy things to get what they want. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we'll learn/we learned about a king who wanted what someone else had."**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children's Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● PICK A GRAPE [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: "Naboth's Vineyard" activity page, copy paper, marshmallows

What You Do:

- Hand out a piece of copy paper to everybody in your group.
- Put another piece of copy paper in the center of your table. Put a pile of marshmallows on this piece of paper. Ask kids to pretend that the marshmallows are grapes.
- Tell kids you will be reading a story from the Bible. Each time they hear the word "vineyard," they should pick one "grape" from the pile and put it onto their piece of copy paper.
- Read 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27 from the provided activity page. Make sure to pause after you say "vineyard" so kids have time to grab a "grape."
- When you have finished the story, explain that you'll ask some questions.
- After each question is answered correctly, kids can eat a "grape" from the pile they have collected.
- Ask the following questions:
 - Who owned the vineyard? (*Naboth*)
 - Who wanted to own the vineyard? (*Ahab*)
 - Why wouldn't Naboth give Ahab the vineyard? (*It had been in his family a long time*)
 - Who came up with the plan to get the vineyard from Naboth? (*Jezebel*)



- Why was her plan a bad one? *(It allowed Ahab to take Naboth's vineyard away from him.)*
- Who gave Ahab a message from God? *(Elijah)*
- What did Elijah say would happen to Ahab? *(He would suffer great harm)*
- How did Ahab respond to Elijah's message? *(He was sad and didn't eat)*
- When you want what someone else has, how does that make you feel? *(Let a couple different kids answer this question, since there can be multiple answers.)*
- What should you do when you want what someone else has? *(Pray; talk to God)*
- Finish today's **[Bottom Line]: Wanting what others have can make you _____.**

What You Say: "Ahab learned that **[Bottom Line] wanting what others have can make you miserable (and stuff can't keep you happy)**, didn't he? He and Jezebel did a really terrible thing in order to get what Ahab wanted. And he paid the price for being discontent. When we want what others have, we need to remember to not be like Ahab. We don't want to do bad things to get the things we want. It is better to be content and happy with what we already have. Our Bottom Line for the day is definitely true. **[Bottom Line] Wanting what others have can make you miserable (and stuff can't keep you happy)**. God doesn't want us to be miserable! God wants us to be content! So God has given us stories like Ahab's to warn us about what can happen when we find ourselves really wanting what someone else has."

[Make It Personal] *(Share a personal story from a time you found yourself wanting what someone else had. How did it make you feel? Did it affect your relationship with the other person? Were you able to gain contentment, or did you suffer a consequence of some kind?)*

●● **WOULD YOU RATHER** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell kids you're going to give them a choice, and then they should hold up one finger or two, depending on which choice they would make.
- Read the choices in the list below.
- After each question, ask for a few volunteers to tell the group why they chose the option they did.
- Continue until all questions have been answered.

Would you rather have:

- #1) three old video games or #2) one brand new video game
- #1) four tablets or #2) one really big screen TV
- #1) a birthday party with all of your friends or #2) a trip to your favorite place on earth
- #1) five tacos or #2) one super stuffed burrito
- #1) one week of half days at school or #2) three days off school
- #1) your favorite sports team winning one huge game or #2) your least favorite team losing ten games
- #1) 200 spoonfuls of hot sauce or #2) one sardine
- #1) clean the entire house by yourself for one day or #2) do dishes every day for one year
- #1) five small quizzes or #2) one big test
- #1) 500 jumping jacks or #2) running one mile

What You Say: "It was so fun trying to figure out the best answer possible for each question! Did any of you guys have a hard time deciding the best option? *(Allow time for responses.)* Three old video games sounded pretty amazing to some of you, but maybe not good enough to replace one brand new video game. You see, wanting more wasn't always the best option. This month as we learn about contentment, it's important to realize the good in what we have so we don't end up disappointed in the end. Remember, **[Bottom Line] wanting what others have can make you miserable (and stuff can't keep you happy)**, so let's learn to be okay with

