



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.

**•• JUST FOR FUN**

**Made to Move** | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask students to take turns answering the following questions without speaking.
- Tell them to use their heads as giant pens and spell their answers in the air or against



a wall where everyone can see.

- What is your favorite food?
- What animal would you like to have as a pet?
- How many pairs of shoes are in your closet right now?
- What is something that a friend has that you wish you had?
- For variety, instead of using their head to write have them use their elbows or feet.

### •• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

*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 one 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 response.*) 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.]*

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## 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.

### •• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [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:**

- Ask your group to define jealousy. How are jealousy and envy different or the same?

**Pro Tip:** Jealousy almost always involves relationships—we become jealous of the attention someone is giving to others instead of us. Envy focuses more on things—a desire for something someone else has. Both can poison our relationships with others and weaken our relationships with God.

- Explain that you will describe a situation.
  - If they think there is envy or jealousy going on, have them give a “thumbs down.”
  - If they think it’s neither, have them give a “thumbs up.”
- Read the following statements:
  - Your friend gets a new pair of shoes, and you would like a pair just like them.



—Your brother or sister gets a gift for Christmas that you think is better than yours. You keep wondering, “Why didn’t I get a better gift?”

—Your best friend decided to sit with someone else at lunch and you’re mad.

—Someone takes your place in the starting lineup of the basketball team. You decide to work harder and get your place back.

—You dislike someone because he or she is a better student than you.

—You see your friends at the mall, and they didn’t invite you. You feel like going up to them and telling them how mad you are.

—You and your friend are both running for Captain of the Book Club. Your friend gets elected. You are disappointed about it, but you realize there is always next year.

• If there’s extra time, let the kids describe their own “thumbs down” and “thumbs up” scenarios.

**•• BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bible, “Who, What, Where, When, and Why” activity pages, pens

**What You Do:**

• Review the story of Naboth’s Vineyard from 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27 by letting kids take turns reading a verse or two at a time.

• Have kids pair up and spread out as much as possible.

• Give each pair a “Who, What, Where, When, and Why” activity page and a pen.

• Encourage kids to come up with a creative question pertaining to the story of Naboth and Ahab for each category on their paper: “Who, What, Where, When, and Why.”

• Explain that they will be trading pages with another team.

• When each group has finished writing, bring the teams together.

• Ask groups to exchange “Who, What, Where, When, and Why” pages and rotate around the groups by letting them read and answer the first question.

• Continue in the same way with the remaining questions.

• Discuss:

—Who do you think was the most to blame for Naboth’s death, Ahab, Jezebel, or the people who stoned him? Explain your answer.

—What did you learn about jealousy and envy from the story of Ahab and Naboth?

—Envy is always destructive. What does it destroy?

—What are some ways God helps us control or overcome these feelings and give us contentment?

**•• DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

***Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding***

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

**Ask:**

• How should we think about the stuff we have in a way that helps us deal with envy?

• Share your thoughts on the following statements:

—Comparison is the thief of joy.

—You can’t love others when all you feel is jealousy.

—God has given us what we have for a reason.

• Is it ever okay to want what someone else has? If so, when is it okay? If not, why?

• What would you say is the best part about learning to be content?

• What can you do to be happy for someone else when he or she has something you want?

