

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 (because 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, crayons

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to pair up and face their partners.
- Give each child a piece of copy paper and set out the crayons 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.
- Tell them to look as happy as they can and draw their partner's face on the other side of the paper.

•• HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES, GRAPE

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

What You Need: "Grape" activity page

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to pair up and face their partners.
- Place a "Grape" activity page on the floor between each pair.
- Tell kids that you're going to shout out either, "head," "shoulders," "knees," or "grape."
- Whenever you shout out a body part word, kids should touch their own head, shoulders, or knees.
- When you shout, "Grape," they should try to grab the "Grape" (*activity page*) before their partner does.
- Call out a series of the three body parts, such as: "Head, knees, shoulders, knees, head, shoulders, head, knees, head, GRAPE!"
- The kids who don't grab the grape sit down.
- The kids who grabbed the grape pair up with someone else who is still standing and play again.
- Continue playing until one kid is left standing.
- If you have time, start all over again.

What You Say: "That game was crazy fun! [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we'll hear/we heard about someone from the Bible who wanted all the grapes, too!"

[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 activity page. Make sure to pause after you say "vineyard" so there's 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. Let's remember to talk to God whenever we don't feel content. God will always help us when we really want to make the wise choice and choose contentment."

●● **NATURE vs. NURTURE** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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:

- Guide kids to do some learned skills:
 - Tie shoes
 - Sing the alphabet song
 - Do jumping jacks
 - Do a somersault
- Explain that those are all things they had to learn to do.
- Talk about some other things they have learned to do, such as: play games, make a sandwich, write their name, color in the lines, etc.
- Ask kids to do some things that come naturally:
 - Breathe
 - Blink
 - Laugh/cry
- Explain that those are things they didn't have to learn. They just naturally were able to do them from the time they were born.
- Talk about some other things people don't have to learn, such as: sleep, hear, see, etc.

What You Say: "We've seen that there are some things we do that nobody has to teach us. We're just able to do them because we're human. But other things have to be learned. Being content is one of those things we have to learn to do. It's not something that comes naturally. We have to think about it and ask God to help us do it. Today, we have been learning about King Ahab. Even though he was a grown up and a king, he had not yet learned how to be content. We need to learn and practice how to be content with what we have. If we don't, we will realize, like King Ahab did, that **[Bottom Line]** Wanting what others have can make you miserable (and stuff can't keep you happy)."

●● **MORE ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: "Memory Verse Phrases 1" and "Memory Verse Phrases 2" activity cards

What You Do:

- Set the two separate piles of phrases at one end of your space.
- Divide the kids into two teams, and guide the teams to stand across your space from the two piles.
- On your "Go," kids take turns running to the piles to pick up a piece, bring it back, and tag the next person, who will get the next piece, and so on.



GRADE K-1

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE