



OCTOBER THEME

MORE OR LESS
The Choice is Yours!

BIBLE STORY

EXODUS 16:2-21; 17:1-7

Don't Look Back | Israelites Long for Egypt

Spark Story Bible: Manna, Quail and Water, pg. 90-93

BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss out on what you have now (because God can help you be ok no matter what)

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 is good in your life right now? Often we lack contentment because we're either looking forward to something we want or looking backwards to a time when we thought life was better. To find contentment, we need to be aware of what God is doing in the present. We hope that families begin to see all that God is doing in their life right now.

We wrap up our study on contentment in **Exodus 16:2-21 and 17:1-7** with a look at how God's people respond to the wilderness. God rescued them from slavery in Egypt, yet when they find themselves in uncomfortable situations they complain that God doesn't care about them and even long to return to Egypt. In spite of that, God continued to meet their needs in the wilderness providing what they needed the whole time.

Bottom Line: Don't miss out on what you have now (because God can help you be ok no matter what). If we're only thinking about what we don't have, we'll miss being able to celebrate how God is taking care of us. It's easy to find something else we think we need that will make us happy, but contentment is finding the joy in what God has provided right here and now. We pray that families will start seeing the good in their life rather than complain and miss out.

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 always dream big and do their best, but that they would do so with hearts of contentment. Ask God to help them stay focused on what they have now, celebrating what God has given them in this phase of life.

•• EARLY ARRIVER

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:

- Hand out copy paper. Set markers out where everybody can share them.
 - Ask: "What kind of invention do you think should be made in the future that will help us with something we don't have now?"
- If kids have trouble making up an invention, ask: "What do you think is the coolest invention we have now? What's something that helps us do something we couldn't do before?"



- You can give examples such as the computer, video games, planes, trains, cars, peanut butter, the cotton gin, etc.
- Encourage your group to draw their invention on their paper.
 - After kids have finished, allow them to share their invention with the group.

•• SHOES, HOUSE, CLOTHES, FOOD

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

What You Need: Can of soup or packaged food item

What You Do:

- Choose two kids to stand and face one another.
- Place the food item on the floor between them.
- Explain and demonstrate the following:
 - When I say SHOES, touch toes.
 - When I say HOUSE, put your arms up in the air like a roof.
 - When I say CLOTHES, stretch your arms out to the side.
 - When I say FOOD, grab the food item.
- Tell kids that you will say the words several times quickly and in random order. When you say “FOOD,” the first person to grab the food item is the winner of that round.
- Choose a new challenger to play against the winner and repeat the game until everyone has had at least one turn.

What You Say: “Shoes, house, clothes, food—most of us have all of those things. Some people have more. Some have less. It’s easy to take it all for granted. I wonder—if God dropped our lunch out of the sky today, do you think we’d complain if it weren’t our favorite food? Or would we be so in awe of what God did that it wouldn’t matter what the food was? **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll hear/we heard about a time when God provided but people still complained.**”

[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.

•• MANNA, MANNA EVERYWHERE [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: “Manna, Quail, and Water” activity cards, Dixie cups, beads

What You Do:

- Hand out “Manna, Quail, and Water” activity cards to six volunteers. Ask them to review today’s Bible story by reading the cards in numerical order.
- Scatter the “manna/bread” (beads) all over your small group table.
- Give each kid a Dixie cup.
- Tell kids that the beads are manna/bread from the story.
 - Their job is to collect as much manna as they can. However, when you start to ask a question, they must stop until someone correctly



answers the question.

—Then on your command, they can start collecting manna again.

• Begin collecting manna. Ask a question every 10 seconds or so.

• Questions:

—Why weren't the Israelites happy with Moses at the beginning of today's story? (*they were hungry*)

—What is the first thing the story said that God gave them to eat? (*meat/quail*)

—What is the second thing the story said that God gave them to eat? (*bread/manna*)

—What did the bread look like? (*tiny seeds*)

—How often did God provide meat and bread? (*every day*)

—Did everyone have enough to eat? (*yes*)

—Why weren't the Israelites happy with Moses at the end of the story? (*they were thirsty*)

—What did Moses do to get them water? (*he hit a rock with his staff*)

What You Say: "Let me see how much manna you gathered. (*Take a quick look in everyone's cup.*) Wow! You gathered just the exact right amount! Why is it just right? Because you followed my instructions. When the Israelites followed God's instructions, they had just enough manna, too. But they weren't always happy with what they had. They thought they had it better back in Egypt when they were slaves. WRONG! They didn't. God took care of them in the desert. They didn't have all the foods and drinks that they had in Egypt, but they had plenty of the food and drinks that God knew was best for them. God ALWAYS gives us what's best for us right now. **[Bottom Line]** Don't miss out on what you have now (because God can help you be ok no matter what) wasting time thinking about what you used to have or what you want to have tomorrow. Be content with what God has given you today."

•• **OUT OF FOCUS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: "Out of Focus" activity pages, pens

What You Do:

• Provide every kid with an "Out of Focus" activity page and a pen.

• Tell kids that there are cool things hidden in the gift box, but those things are really small, so they'll need to look very closely to find them.

• Give kids a few minutes find and circle all of the items on the page.

What You Say: "Great job finding the hidden items on your page! Did you notice that when you were focusing on finding the small objects, you could no longer see the large picture of the gift? This is exactly what happens to us when we are searching for more and more instead of being content with what God has already gifted us. We miss out on what's right in front of us! Remember, **[Bottom Line]** don't miss out on what you have now (because God can help you be ok no matter what). We can trust that God will give us what we need at just the right time. We can be content knowing God delivers way more than we could ever find on our own."

•• **WATCH OUT!** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Bible, "Watch Out!" activity pages, markers

What You Do:

• Show kids how to look up Luke 12:15...

Finding verses with 2nd + 3rd graders: Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. 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

