



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.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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.

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

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: “Food, clothes, house, shoes—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.

•• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [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 kids to share their answers to the following questions:
 - What is something good in your life right now?
 - What is something you used to have that you don’t any longer and you miss it?
 - What is something you look forward to in the future?
 - What will you miss someday about being a kid?
 - What’s something you can do that an adult probably wishes they could do, too?



—What is the best thing about being a kid your age?

•• **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, “Out of Egypt” activity cards, copy paper, markers

What You Do:

- Tell everyone to hold up the hand they write with and fold their thumb onto their palm like they are holding up 4 fingers. They should keep their hand this way throughout this activity.
- Distribute all of the “Out of Egypt” cards. It’s okay if some kids have more than one card.
- Give a marker and sheet of paper to each group member.
- Instruct the group to take a couple of minutes to, keeping their thumbs folded down, draw a simple picture that goes along with the caption written on their cards.
- When they’re finished, ask them if they were annoyed about drawing with their thumbs folded down. Would they complain if they could never go back to using their thumbs again?
- Challenge the group to arrange the cards based on what they remember of the order of events in Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7. They can look up the verses if they need help with this task.
- Remind kids that God had given the Israelites what they needed when they needed it. Sadly, they were so focused on what they left behind in Egypt that they missed out on the amazing things God was providing for them along the way.

•• **VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Ask everyone to look up and read Luke 12:15 in their Bible.
- Lead a discussion:
 - Thinking back on our Bible story for today, it’s true that the Israelites didn’t have the tasty Egyptian food they liked, what were some HUGE things they DID have?
 - If you could have given the Israelites some advice, what would you have told them?
 - Our memory verse reminds us to be careful to not always want more and more...to not want what we don’t have. Why do you think that’s so hard to do?
 - How can you make sure you appreciate what you have instead of always wanting something more?
 - What do you often hear kids complain about? How does this week’s Bible story and this month’s memory verse help with those things?
- Encourage kids to look for something to be grateful for the next time they’re not feeling content over something they miss that they used to have OR because they can’t wait for something that they’re going to get in the future. Taking a moment to think about what they have right now and giving thanks is a great step toward 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 some of the following discussion questions...

