



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.

•• MORE OR LESS?

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Explain that kids will be comparing numbers of things they see in the room.
- You'll give them two items, and they will figure out which has more and which has less. (*You may need to explain that more means which item has a higher number and less means which has the lower number.*)
- Guide them to compare the following items. They can be free to move around your space if needed.



- Boys vs. girls
- Eyes vs. noses
- Windows vs. doors
- Kids vs. Small group leaders
- Long sleeved shirts vs. Short sleeved shirts
- Anything else that you could compare in your space

•• MY STUFF

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:

- Hand out copy paper and crayons and ask kids to draw their favorite thing (*toy, game, clothes, pet, etc.*)
- As they are drawing, ask kids to tell you about that thing. Why is it their favorite? What do they love about it? Where did they get it?
- Now, invite them to flip their paper over and draw their favorite thing to do (*play basketball, bake cookies with a parent, help around the house, play with Legos, etc.*)
- As they are drawing, ask kids to tell you about their favorite thing to do. How did they learn? Who taught them? When did they learn?

What You Say: “Wow! It was sure fun to hear about all the things you have and all the things you can do! **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll hear/we heard about focusing on things we have right now.”**

[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: Spark Story Bible, Dixie cups, beads

What You Do:

- Read “Manna, Quail, and Water” (p.90-93) to your group from the Spark Story Bible.
- 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. If necessary, re-read that part of the story to help them answer.
- 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 the rock with his walking stick*)

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)** by 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.”

●● **MAY I?** [Live for God | 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: “Questions” activity page

What You Do:

- Guide kids to stand side-by-side on one side of your space, so they’re facing you.
- Explain that during this game, you will ask questions about when people get to do certain things. To answer, kids will pick an age group and then make that age group’s pose.
 - Baby: Get on hands and knees.
 - Their age: Stand in a superhero pose.
 - Sixteen-year-old: Pretend like they’re driving a car.
- Call out the age groups a few times, letting kids strike those poses. Make sure they know what the categories and poses are before starting the game.
- To start, read a question from the “Questions” activity page and then say “Pose!”
- After each question, have a quick discussion about which age group was the correct answer and why.

What You Say: “There are some things you could do as a baby that you can’t—or shouldn’t—do now. And there are things you can do now that you couldn’t do when you were a baby and probably shouldn’t do when you’re a teenager. And there are things you’ll be able to do when you’re a teenager that you can’t do now. But what we need to focus on are the things we have and the things we can do now. What are some awesome things you can do now? (*Let kids give answers; remind them of the game they just played, if they are at a loss for responses.*) So **[Bottom Line] don’t miss out on what you have now (because God can help you be ok no matter what)!**”

[Make It Personal] (Share about something you can do now that you couldn’t do when you were younger and that you might not be able to do when you’re a lot older. Make sure to keep it age appropriate and something kids could potentially relate to, like choosing what to eat for dinner, buying and playing a brand-new video game as soon as it comes out, going to the movies.)

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

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

What You Need: “Watch Out” activity pages, crayons

