



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 (because 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: "My Favorite Things" color sheet, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out "My Favorite Things" color sheets and set out the crayons where everyone can share them.
- Talk through each of the pictures and invite kids to color the one that is their favorite.



What You Say: “There are some fun toys and activities on this sheet! Which one is your favorite? Color that one first.

What You Do:

- While they’re coloring, talk to them about their chosen toy or activity. Who do they like to do it with? When and where do they usually play with it? When was the most recent time they played with it?
- Once they finish coloring their first square, invite them to color another one and talk through that toy/activity as above.

What You Say: “Wow! Those sure are some fun things to do! And I love how you shared where, when and who you like to play with! It’s fun to have things like toys and games that make us happy, isn’t it?”

•• 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!”
- Continue playing until interest wanes.

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 over enunciate the word “vineyard” and pause after so there’s time to grab a “grape.”
- When you have finished the story, invite them to enjoy their “grapes” while you remind them of what happened in today’s story...



What You Say: “A man named Naboth owned a vineyard. Do you remember who wanted to own it? *(Pause for answers)* That’s right! Ahab really, really wanted the vineyard. Have you ever wanted something that belonged to someone else? That happens sometimes, doesn’t it? Now, Naboth wouldn’t give Ahab the vineyard because it had been in his family for a long, long time and he wanted to keep it that way. Which seems fair, doesn’t it? Well, when Ahab heard that Naboth wouldn’t give it to him, he got really mad. He even refused to eat! Have you ever acted that way when you didn’t get what you wanted? *(Pause for answers)* Sometimes we get frustrated and angry when we don’t get what we want, don’t we? But does that make us feel any better? *(Pause for answers)* Probably not. Well, Ahab’s wife, Jezebel, saw how upset he was and came up with a plan...but it wasn’t a very nice one. It allowed Ahab to take Naboth’s vineyard away from him, which Ahab thought would make him really happy. Have you ever had anything that you really liked taken away from you? *(Pause for answers)* It’s no fun, is it? But guess what? Ahab learned that even though he got the vineyard, he still wasn’t happy. He learned a hard lesson.

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. But in the end, it didn’t make him happy. 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 find that we want what someone else has. God will always help us when we really want to make the wise choice and choose contentment.”

●● **TOYS, TOYS AND MORE TOYS** [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: “Toys, Toys and More Toys” coloring sheet, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out the “Toys, Toys and More Toys” coloring sheet and put the crayons in the middle of the table where they can be shared among the group.
- Read to your group this month’s memory verse, found on the bottom of the color sheet.
- As they color the picture, read it again, this time inviting them to repeat after you: “Then he said to them, *(Then he said to them,)* ‘Watch out! *(Watch out!)* Be on your guard *(Be on your guard)* against wanting to have more and more things *(against wanting to have more and more things)*. Life is not made up *(Life is not made up)* of how much a person has *(of how much a person has)*.” Luke 12:15 *(Luke 12:15)*

What You Say: “Wow! There are a lot of toys in that toy bin! It would be hard to find the time to play with them all, wouldn’t it? In today’s story we heard about Ahab and how he wasn’t happy with what he had and he wanted what someone else had. But we hope to remember that **[Bottom Line] wanting what others have can make you miserable (and stuff can’t keep you happy)**. So the next time you think you want a new toy, maybe remember the toys you already have at home and be happy with those. Sound good?”

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when wanting what someone else had made you unhappy. Maybe you wanted some new clothes, a nice big house like your friend or a car like your neighbors. Or maybe you wanted to have a better, more fun job. Tell kids what you did to help become content with what you already had instead of wanting what someone else had.)

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: GodTime cards, Parent Cue cards *(Sunday groups only)*

