

I Hurt Him for the Grapevine

Bible Story: I Hurt Him for the Grapevine (Naboth's vineyard) • 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27

Bottom Line: When you focus on what you don't have, it can make you miserable.

Memory Verse: "I have learned the secret to being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough." *Philippians 4:12b, NIV*

Life App: Contentment—deciding to be happy with what you've got.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

* 1. I Want It NOW (review the Bible story)

What You Need: 2 large pieces of paper, pens or markers, Bibles

What You Do:

- Put a large piece of paper on a table.
- Write "King Ahab had ..." in large letters somewhere on the paper.
- Ask kids to draw pictures of things from the story King Ahab had in his life.
- Refer to the Bible, 1 King 21:1-4, for ideas. Examples could include: palace or a home, a vineyard (he already had a vineyard before he took Naboth's vineyard), a bed, clothes, horses, chariots, food, servants, money, etc.
- Review all the things King Ahab had.
- Did God or God's Word make the list of items? If not, talk to kids about that.
- Remind the kids God was there for King Ahab and just because King Ahab wasn't interested in talking to God doesn't mean God wasn't available to help King Ahab be content.
- Put out another piece of paper and write, "King Ahab didn't have ..." Kids will draw pictures of things from the story King Ahab didn't have, which is Naboth's vineyard.

What You Say:

"Look at all the stuff King Ahab had—a palace, delicious food and someone to cook it for him, a bed, transportation and most importantly an awesome God! God blessed King Ahab with so much and yet King Ahab was miserable because he didn't have Naboth's vineyard. What should King Ahab have done to learn contentment? (*focused on his blessings, trusted God, prayed, been thankful*) There will always be something you want and don't have, but **[Bottom Line]** when you focus on what you don't have, it can make you miserable."

[Make It Personal] (Give an example of something you wish you had. Maybe it is something your friend has and you wish you had it too, such as a better car, a bigger kitchen, a better wardrobe, a nicer phone, a dog, a pool, etc. Share with the group something you do to train yourself to be content and happy with what you do have. For example, maybe you make a list each day of three things you are thankful for in your life, maybe there is a verse you recite to remind yourself to trust God no matter what, or maybe you pray or ask a friend to pray for you to learn to be content.)

2. Contentment Journal (*application activity*)**What You Need:** Journals, markers, stickers**What You Do:**

- Kids will decorate the covers of their journals, talk to them about things they have in their life. What do they have they are thankful for? Guide them to think of things they need, such as clean water, food, a home, shoes, clothes, a Bible, etc.
- Have kids write or draw one thing they have in their life right now.
- Challenge kids to write 2 things every night that they are grateful for.

What You Say:

"Research shows that thinking of and writing down even a few things each day that you are thankful for changes your perspective and attitude. Thanking God for these things before going to sleep each night shows you understand where all the good things in your life really come from."

What You Say:

"Each of you has things in your life; And even though the stuff you have is good enough, there will be times you wish you had something more. If you find yourself pulling a 'King Ahab' this week and focusing on what you don't have, pull out your journal and focus on what God has provided for you. **[Bottom Line]** When you focus on what you don't have, it can make you miserable. However, when you focus on God and on being thankful for what God has already provided for you, it can help you to be content."

3. Hot Crown (*memory verse activity*)**What You Need:** Crown, timer or mobile device, memory verse, Bible**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Tell kids to look up the memory verse and read it out loud.
- Set a timer for 30 seconds.
- Hand one kid the crown.
- When you say, "GO," the kid will place the crown on his head and say the first word of the memory verse and pass the crown to the kid sitting next to him. The next kid takes the crown and puts it on his head and says the next word of the verse and passes the crown to the kid next to him, and so on.
- The crown moves around the circle with each kid saying the next word of the verse and passing the crown until the 30 seconds is up and you say, "STOP."
- Whoever has the crown when you say to stop sits out the next round.
- Repeat this until one kid is left and is declared the winner.
- With each round, change the time of the game. There will be rounds when the kids don't finish the memory verse and rounds where they will say it more than once. To add an element of surprise, don't let kids know how much time you are giving for each round.
- If someone forgets a word, the group can help him.

What You Say:

"Here is an interesting observation about our verse today. Paul says, 'I have LEARNED the secret of being content no matter what happens.' (*Philippians 4:12b, NIV*) To learn something what do you have to do? How do you learn how to play basketball or the clarinet? How did you learn your spelling words or how to do multiplication? (*You have to work at it, you have to practice it, you have to study it, you listen to teachers, etc.*) To learn something takes effort. This memory verse is a reminder that being content is something you have to learn; it will take practice and you will have to work at it. Today you heard the story of King Ahab and you learned **[Bottom Line] when you focus on what you don't have, it can make you miserable.** With practice, you can learn the secret of being content no matter what happens, no matter what you do or do not have. When you begin to focus on what you don't have, one way to practice being content is to focus on God instead. Focus on God and on His Word, and He will help you be content."

Additional discussion questions:

- What are things you do when you aren't content with what you have or when you don't get your way? Maybe you didn't get the video game you wanted, or you didn't make the gymnastics team. (*You are in a bad mood, complain, grumble, get angry, etc.*)
- So what's the value of being content? Why should we bother with it? Why does God want us to be content?
- How does being content show the world what you think about God? (*It shows the world you trust God and He will give you what you need, shows the world you are thankful for what God has given you, shows the world you have peace that comes from knowing God is greater than your things, etc.*)

Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray with the kids, focusing on being thankful for what they have and asking for God's help to be content no matter what they have or don't have.