

We Can't Get No Satisfaction

Bible Story: We Can't Get No Satisfaction (Israelites long for Egypt) • *Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-4*

Bottom Line: When you focus on what you used to have, you can miss what you have now.

Memory Verse: "I have learned the secret of 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. Mingle for Manna and Meat (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

What You Need: "Mingle!" Activity Page cards; 1 set for each kid, "Mingle! Master" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Show kids the "Mingle!" cards and ask prompting questions to lead kids to recall the story.
- Place the "Mingle! Master" page where every kid can see it.
- Gather a set of "Mingle!" cards for each child. Shuffle the "deck" well.
- Deal each kid five cards.
- Guide kids to look at their cards and refer to the "master" to determine which card(s) they lack. Explain they only need one of the "Israelites focus on Egypt" cards.
- Guide kids to talk to each other in your group, trying to find other kids with whom they can trade – "Go Fish" style – for the card(s) they need:
 - Child 1: *Do you have an extra quail card?*
 - Child 2: *Yes.*
 - Child 2: *Do you have an extra Egypt card?*
 - Child 1: *No.*
 - *Kids part ways.*
 - Child 1: *Do you have an extra quail card?*
 - Child 3: *Yes.*
 - Child 3: *Do you have an extra manna card?*
 - Child 1: *Yes.*
 - *Kids trade cards.*
- The game continues until every child has all five cards.

What You Say:

"Why did the Israelites complain and grumble? (*Pause for responses.*) How did God respond? (*Pause for responses.*) Even though the Israelites experienced God's miracle of quail and manna, they STILL complained when they reached a place where they needed water. They even asked, 'Is the Lord among us, or not?' (*Exodus 17:7, NIV*)

"God continually gave the Israelites what they needed when they needed it. But the Israelites were so focused on what they used to have in Egypt that they kept missing out on the fact that God was with them and that He was providing for them.

[Make It Personal] *(Tell about a kid-appropriate time when you were so focused on what you used to have that you missed out on what you did have.)*

[Bottom Line] “When you focus on what you **USED** to have, you can miss what you have **NOW**. And what you have now is a God who loves you and cares for you. So focus on what you have—thank God that He is always with you, that He provides for you, and that you can trust Him no matter what.”

3. Trace It *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: Bible, “Verse Page” Activity Pages; 1 for each kid, crayons, smiley face stickers

What You Do:

- Read Philippians 4:12b aloud from the Bible.
- Hand out the Activity Pages.
- Tell kids this week you’re focusing on the second part of the verse.
- Read the verse aloud from the Activity Page and ask kids to repeat it with you.
- Tell kids to trace over the word “content.”
- Hand out smiley face stickers for kids to place on their pages.
- If you have time, allow kids to color their pages.

What You Say:

“We can be content at all times, no matter what’s going on, no matter if we’re hungry or not hungry. When we focus on God and on what we have now, we can be content and happy.”

2. Backwards Basketball *(application activity)*

What You Need: Bible, painter’s tape, 3 foam balls, toy basketball goal or container to substitute

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Philippians 4 and review the verse, guiding kids to say it with you.
- Create a “free throw” line with tape and set the goal 5-10 feet away.
- Guide kids to line up behind the line and then turn with their backs to the goal.
- Give the first child in line a ball. Guide him to try to shoot a basket while looking backwards. Provide help as needed.
- Keep the pace high by guiding kids to shoot quickly and then step aside. *(Hint: Invite a volunteer to be a “ball boy” or “ball girl.” He/she can gather balls after they’re shot and bring them to you.)*

What You Say:

“Was it more difficult to shoot the balls looking back than if you were looking forward? *(Pause for responses.)* The same is true of contentment. When you look back at what you used to have, it’s hard to be content. Because **[Bottom Line] when you focus on what you used to have, you can miss what you have now.** So this week, focus on what you have now. Focus on your family, your friends, God, His faithfulness, and His immeasurable love for you. In fact, God loves you SO much that He gave you His Son, Jesus. When you believe in Him, you receive God’s free gift of eternal life. Now THAT’s a great reason to be content!”

Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids to stand in a close circle with you, each person's hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them.
- Lean forward and say to the child in front of you, "Don't look back." Guide that child to repeat the phrase to the child in front of her, and so on around the circle.
- On the count of three, guide the group to slowly sit in unison. Be sure kids keep their hands on the shoulders of the kids in front. Remind the kids not to look back!
- When the kids are seated in a giant "human chair," pray, asking God to help the kids not look back, but instead focus on Him and trust Him for what they need.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] "When you focus on what you USED to have, you can miss what you have NOW. So don't look back! Instead, trust God that He will give you what you need, and thank Him for what He has given you NOW."