

CITY LG – May 7th-8th

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.

Host enters carrying his Magic Box with a sheet over it and places it on a table.

CG: Theme

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everybody! So glad you made it today as we start a brand new month. We have a great new main pint to explore this month— We are supersizing it with contentment.

CG: Contentment Slide

"Contentment is deciding to be happy with what you've got. Now, speaking of what you've got, have you ever thought about how great it would be if, when we wanted more of something, there was a magic box? Yeah, me too. So I did a little looking, a little Google-ing, and lo and behold ...

Pull the sheet off revealing the "Magic Box."

"... Magic Box! Seriously, it exists. Found this baby on the Internet and two days later, there it was at my doorstep, waiting to magically grant all of my wishes!

"So how does it work? Glad you asked! The Magic Box is a multiplication mystery of sorts ... a duplication dynamo ... a replication ... well you get the point. It takes what you already have and makes more of it. Check it out!

Grab a fun-size candy bar.

"So I love candy, especially candy bars. But have you ever had somebody give you one of those little fun-size candy bars and, well, it just wasn't enough? That is where the Magic Box comes in! Just take your little ol' fun-size candy bar, drop it in (*drop it in the box*), close the lid, and ...

Reach in and pull out the king-size candy bar.

“... out comes a king-size candy bar! Is it magic? No, it’s Magic Box. Now this is what I call fun size!

“But that’s not all! So when I was a kid, I had these shoes that were my absolute favorite pair of shoes. But, like every kid, I grew up and couldn’t wear them anymore. That was; however, before the Magic Box, patent pending. Check this out!

Put the kid shoe in the box and close the lid. Make a lot of production before pulling out the extra-large shoe.

“Presto! Now they ARE my size! (*Look at the shoe.*) Or close to my size. Wow, these are huge. I guess I’ll have to grow into them.

“The possibilities are endless. Ever have that frustrating moment where your teacher gives you homework but the words are too small to read? Sure you do. What if you could add more size to the words to make it easier to read? Now you can! (*Hold up the single sheet of homework.*) You just take that small-fonted nuisance, drop it into the Magic Box and ...

Drop the single sheet into the box and close the lid (again, with a lot of production). Pull out a giant stack of homework sheets.

“... uh-oh. It didn’t make the words bigger ... it just made more homework! That’s a LOT of homework. (*Hand stack to the kid who was prepped ahead of time.*) Here you go. I borrowed this from you. Sorry about that. You better get started after church ... looks like it will take awhile. Hope you like math!

“Well, I guess we’d better cool it a bit with the Magic Box for now. We’ve got a great story today!

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Just like I said earlier, all month long we are going to be talking about contentment. And the Bible has something to say about contentment. Our monthly memory verse is:

Memory Verse Slide

“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*

Basically, being content means that you are okay with your stuff, instead of wanting more stuff or wanting other people's stuff. The Bible story today is about someone—his name is King Ahab—who wasn't very content. In fact, he was so focused on someone else's stuff, it made him miserable!

Check this out.....

252 Story Week 2

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "What an amazing story. I really can't believe how far Ahab and Jezebel went to get Naboth's vineyard. I can see what helped them get to that point, though—what did Ahab do after Naboth told him no? *(Pause for answers.)* He pouted. He went in his room, laid on his bed, and didn't eat because he was so focused on what he didn't have!

"Being content means being okay with the stuff you have. God doesn't want you to want other people's stuff, because it will make you miserable! When you start looking at what others have and wanting what you don't have, that's when things go off the rails a bit.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "When you focus on what you don't have, it can make you miserable. Instead, focus on everything that God has given you—and how your stuff is good enough! Let's pray."

Pray

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for all You've given us—for Your protection, Your provision, and most of all Your love. I pray that we are content with what we have! I pray You help us see when we're focusing on the wrong things, and to turn our eyes on the One who helps us be totally content—You. We ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

Dismiss to small groups