

# 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.

## (End of Large Group, before we break into Small Group)

"I'm always amazed by people who overcome challenges in their lives and refuse to feel sorry for themselves. God is able to use them for great purposes! I think an awesome example of this that you might have heard of—someone your own age—whose positive and upbeat message has encouraged many, is Kid President. He has a rare disease that makes his bones break almost without cause, but he still lives a full and positive life, encouraging others not to look back but to look forward. Let's hear what this article about him has to say.

<http://cbsn.ws/1PbJOSm>

Kid President - Reasons To Be Thankful video: <https://youtu.be/yA5Qpt1JRE4>

## SMALL GROUP TIME:

### (Talk about the videos we just watched)

**What you say:** How did the video line up with some of the things we are talking about today?

How can you be thankful for things in your life even when everything isn't good?

What's one thing you feel encouraged to try this week?

What other things can you be thankful for?

## 1. What Do You Have NOW? (review the Bible story)

**What You Need:** White board, dry-erase marker, eraser

### What You Do:

- Review the Bible story with the following questions:
  - Who were God's people in the story today? (*Israelites*)
  - For hundreds of years, the Israelites lived in Egypt. What was their life like in Egypt? What was their occupation in Egypt? Was it a hard life? Why or why not? (*Their lives were hard. They were slaves to Pharaoh and had to do whatever he said.*)
  - Moses, with God's help, led the Israelites from Egypt and slavery to freedom in the desert. What was something God provided to the Israelites while they were in the desert? (*On the whiteboard, make a list with the kids of all the things God provided for the Israelites in the desert. At the top of the list write, "God Provides ..."*)
  - How did the Israelites thank God for providing for them in the desert? (*The Israelites didn't thank God. Instead they complained and wished they were back in Egypt*)

### What You Say:

"The Israelites were so focused on their life in Egypt they forgot to be content with what God was providing for them in the desert. They forgot about the manna (*erase manna from the list*), they forgot about the water (*erase water from the list*), and they forgot about the quail (*erase quail from the list*). Just like the Israelites, **[Bottom Line]** when you focus on what you used to have, you can miss what you have now. (Make a list with the kids of things God provided for them today. Be sure to focus on today. Don't erase the list, because you will use it during prayer time.)

“Wow! Look at all the things God provides for us today ... right now. Sometimes—especially when things aren’t going exactly like you planned—it’s hard to remember God is still there for you, still providing for you. Sometimes, right now is hard—school is difficult or your friend moves or you have to eat broccoli for dinner. While it is okay to miss your friend or to hate eating broccoli, it is not okay to forget to thank God for what He provides for you even if it looks different than you want. Make it a habit to thank God each day for what you have right now! Remember, **[Bottom Line]** when you focus on what you use to have, you can miss what you have now.”

## 2. Happy Hoops (*application activity*)

**What You Need:** Buckets, balls; 2-3 for each kid, painter’s tape, timer or mobile phone

### What You Do:

- Make two tape lines (aprox) 20 feet apart on the floor. Depending on the size of your bucket, you may need to move the lines closer together.
- Divide your group in half and instruct each half to stand on one of the lines.
- Place the bucket between the two lines and give each kid two or three balls.
- Give the group one minute to work all together as a team to see how many baskets they can make.
- If they miss, they can go retrieve the balls, but they can only shoot baskets while standing behind the tapeline.
- At the end of the minute, count how many balls are in the bucket.
- Repeat the activity, but this time the kids must have their backs to the bucket at all times. They can look over their shoulder when trying to make a basket, but they can’t face the bucket.

### What You Say:

“What was the best way to make a basket: facing the target or looking over your shoulder at the target? See, the Israelites were so focused on looking over their shoulder at the past and looking back at their life in Egypt, they missed out on what God was providing for them right now. Just like the Israelites, **[Bottom Line]** when you focus on what you used to have, you can miss what you have now. Often, when you focus on the past, looking over your shoulder, you can miss the target and miss what God is providing for you today. This week spend some time each day thanking God for what you have now.”

### 3. Thank You Magnets (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** “Thank You” Activity Page cards; 1 for each kid, decorating supplies, adhesive magnetic tape or strips, scissors

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a thank you card to decorate.
- Encourage the kids to be creative in their decorating and **[Make It Personal] (be sure to do the activity with them.)**
- Adhere a magnet to the back of each card.

**What You Say:**

“You did a great job decorating your cards. Put your card somewhere you will see it every day. Maybe you can put it in your locker, or on your refrigerator. See if it will stick to a screw on your bedroom light switch or maybe on a screw holding up your bathroom mirror. If you have a metal lamp next to your bed, you can put it there. When you see the magnet, pray a quick prayer that starts out, ‘God, today I thank You for ...’ and fill in the blank. God provides for you every day and you don’t want to be like the Israelites and miss out on what God has for you today. Remember **[Bottom Line] when you focus on what you used to have, you can miss what you have now.** So get in the habit of thanking God every day for what you have RIGHT NOW and it just may help you learn to be content in the midst of whatever happens in your life!”

## **Pray**

**What You Need:** Whiteboard with the list of things kids are thankful for

**What You Do:**

- Sit in a circle and put the whiteboard in the center of the circle.
- Pray with the kids, thanking God for what He has given us today.

As parents arrive, tell them kids are working on being content with what God provides each day and not focusing on the past. Encourage parents or guardians to spend time at a meal this week as a family, thanking God for something He provided for them that day.