



ACTIVITIES FOR 1ST-5TH GRADERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

October 17, 2021, Week 1

Today's Bible Story: Be OK (Be Content/Paul in Prison) • *Philippians 4:11b-13*

Today's Bottom Line: God can help you be content.

Monthly 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 (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Contentment—Learning to be okay with what you have

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Opening Activity

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Empty two-liter soda bottle or soup can; common, clean items that can be found in trash; paper; and markers; *Optional smartphone or pre-printed pictures from Pinterest®*

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to form a circle.
- Show the group the empty soda bottle or soup can.
- Invite the kids to use their imagination to think of ways the object can be used differently. (*Some suggestions: decorate or paint it to make art; a flower vase; pencil holder; planter; storage for coins; wind chime*)
- Ask the kids to share their ideas as they pass around the item.
- *Optional: With your smartphone or pre-printed pictures, show the group pictures of how other people creatively upcycled that item.*
- o Two-liter bottle: <https://www.pinterest.com/reusegrowenjoy/plastic-bottle-crafts/>
- o Empty soup can: <https://www.pinterest.com/gagagallery/soup-can-crafts/>
- Repeat the creativity with additional items easily saved from the trash.
- If time allows, let kids choose one of the items to draw. They can draw their own idea for upcycling that item or choose someone else's idea from earlier.

What You Say:

"You did an excellent job of looking at what you have in a different way! **[Transition]** Today we are going to hear how we can ask God to help us look at hard situations in a different way."

Escaping House Arrest

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

What You Need: Prepared “Wheel and Arrow” Activity Page (BELOW); “Review Questions” Activity Page (BELOW); and tape house on the floor

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Let kids on each team take turns spinning the spinner.
 - If the spinner lands on “house arrest,” direct the kid to stand somewhere inside the outline of the house.
 - If the spinner lands on “set the prisoner free,” ask the kid a review question.
 - If the kid answers incorrectly, instruct them to go under “house arrest” by standing inside the outline of the house.
 - If the kid answers correctly, they set their teammates free from “house arrest.”

What You Say:

“What would you have done if you were in Paul’s shoes going through so many hard situations? *(Pause for responses.)* Do you think it was easy for Paul to be content in the difficult situations he was in? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“Paul trusted God. Paul trusted that God was always with him. He trusted that God loved him. And Paul trusted that God was working for good, even if things were bad or hard. Because Paul trusted God, Paul learned to be content, no matter what happened to him. He learned to look at his difficult situations differently.

“Most likely, none of you will face all those hard situations Paul did. But I also know that things aren’t always easy or peaceful. When hard things happen, we can learn to trust God like Paul did. Because God loves us, He is always with us. He is always working toward something good—even when things are hard. It’s hard to be content when things don’t go the way we want them to, but God can teach us how. **[Bottom Line]** God can help you be content, no matter what happens.”

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about when things did not go well for you. How did God help you find contentment despite your circumstances?)

Review Questions:

- What book of the Bible are we talking about today? (Philippians)
- Where was Paul when he wrote Philippians? (under house arrest in Rome)
- Name one horrible event that happened to Paul. (He was shipwrecked, beaten, robbed, hurt with stones, put in prison, he has been hungry, thirsty, and without sleep. You can ask several kids this question!)
- Even though he was in prison, what did Paul learn? (He learned to be content no matter what happened or no matter what he had.)
- Paul didn't say contentment came easy to him. How did he learn to be content in spite of going through lots of hardships? (Jesus/God taught him and gave him strength.)
- How did Paul say we could learn to be content? (Jesus/God will help us learn to be content.)
- What is contentment? (learning to be okay with what you have)



1. Cut out the wheel and arrow.
2. Place the arrow on top of the wheel and align the dots.
3. Push the brad through the dots and loosely secure it to the back of the wheel.

Practice Contentment

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Hula hoops and paper plates

What You Do:

- Place a hula hoop for each kid in a circle, leaving about six inches between each hoop.
- Give each kid a paper plate.
- Explain that the hula hoops are ships, the paper plates are their lifeboats, and the floor is water.
- To start the game, instruct the kids to stand in a hula hoop. Explain that the hula hoop they stand in is their personal ship.
- The point of the game is for the kids to creatively use their lifeboats to help themselves and others get to their hula hoop ships without sinking in the water.
- Going clock-wise, direct the kids to jump from ship to ship until they return back to their ship. The first time (when the hula hoops are close) will be easy.
- With each round, increase the distance between each ship.
- As the distance between the ships increases beyond jumping distance, challenge the kids to come up with creative ways to use their lifeboats to hop into the next ship without stepping into the water.
- The kids will have to work together as the distance between the hoops increases.
- Avoid giving the kids any suggestions or solutions. Instead, encourage the kids to work together to come up with their own ideas.
- *Note: Besides using long jumps, the kids can use their own lifeboat between two ships as a bridge to step on. As the distance between the ships increases, encourage the kids to get creative and find ways to borrow each other's lifeboats (without getting out of the ship) to make bridges.*

What You Say:

"Was it easy to get into the ships as the distance between the ships increased? *(Pause for responses.)* You did an incredible job of seeing the potential and coming up with new ways to cope with the increasing distances between the ships!

"As you just experienced, there are some things we do that nobody has to teach us. We're just able to do them because we're human. But other things have to be learned. Being content is one of those things we have to learn. It's not something that comes naturally. But God promises that He will help us learn!

"Can you think of some situations in your life that you might benefit from seeing differently so you can learn to be content with them? *(Pause for responses.)* Those are great examples of things that can happen to make us upset, angry, or just sad that something didn't go the way we expected.

"What are some things you can do to help you learn to be content when you're not? *(Ask God to help you see in a new way and be content; remember the truth that God loves you and is always working for your good)* **[Bottom Line] God can help you be content."**

Note: Be sensitive to kids who have had traumatic things happen to them. Be careful not to downplay their situation, but at the same time try to keep the focus on difficult and challenging things, rather than traumatic things.