



WEEK ONE - OCTOBER 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *That's All Right (Paul in Prison) • Philippians 4:11b-13*

Bottom Line: *God can help you be okay no matter what.*

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)*

Life App: *Contentment—Deciding to be okay with what you have*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: In our first week, we start in Philippians 4:11b-13. In this letter, Paul is writing to the church at Philippi to help them understand more about what it means to follow Jesus. Paul shares how they can be content and even have joy regardless of their situation in life. This is something that Paul has had to learn from experience. His example of contentment in the face of difficulty is a lesson we can all learn from.

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Paper; Pens/Markers; stuffed animal

What You Do:

- Hand out the scrap paper and pencils.
- Ask kids to think of something hard that has happened in their life or a friend's life.
- This can be something like losing a pet, moving away from a best friend, having a hard time with spelling or tying shoes, playing in an instrument recital or concert, etc.
- 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.
- When kids have finished writing and sharing, collect their papers to take with you to Large Group.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *God can help you be okay no matter what.* We can't promise kids that when they follow Jesus that everything in their life will work out just the way they want it to. However, we can promise them that even if life isn't okay, God can help them be okay with their circumstances. We pray that no matter what kids are facing, they'll learn to trust that God will give them what they need to get through it.

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Duck, Duck, Outta There

[Bible Story Review]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain & taps into the energy of the body

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Encourage your few to sit in a circle so they can play a special version of "Duck, Duck, Goose."
- Explain that each time they get "goosed" they must answer a review question before they can run and chase the "ducker."
- If they get the question correct, they become the new "ducker."
- If they get the question wrong, count to three and then let the "ducker" run while the "goosed" kid chases him.
- If the goosed kid catches the ducker, he sits down and the ducker plays again.
- If the ducker gets back around the circle first, the goosed kid becomes the new ducker.
- Choose who will be the ducker first and begin.
- Continue as time and interest allow and until all of the review questions have been answered.
- Review questions:
 - What book of The Bible are we talking about today? (Philippians)
 - If you can't find anyone to sit with at lunch during school, how can you make it okay? (Allow them to provide their own idea.)
 - Where was Paul when he wrote Philippians? (In chains, under house arrest)
 - If you practiced really hard but still didn't win your game, how can you make it okay? (Allow them to provide their own idea.)
 - What were some other horrible events that happened to Paul besides being in chains? (Hunger, cold, beatings, shipwrecked)
 - If your parents say that you can't stay over at your friend's house, but everyone else gets to, how can you make it okay? (Allow them to provide their own idea.)
 - Paul didn't say contentment came easy to him. How did he get to be content? (He learned it)
 - If you got a bad grade on a test and you really don't want to show your parents, how can you make it okay? (Allow them to provide their own idea.)
 - How did Paul say we could learn to be content? (By the power of Christ. He gives him strength.)
 - How did Paul make things okay even though he was in prison? (He used his time to tell people about God.)

What You Say:

"You all did a pretty amazing job paying attention to our story today! Can you believe that Paul still chose to be content after all he was going through? I know things don't always go

our way or turn out how we want them to, but it's important to remember that [Bottom Line] God can help you be okay no matter what even when things don't go your way."

[Make It Personal] *(Share a personal story from a time things were not going great for you, yet you chose to be content/make things okay.)*

2. No Matter What

[Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy & facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: "No Matter What" Activity Pages; markers

What You Do:

- Provide each kid with an activity page and a pen or marker.
- Encourage your kids to identify what looks wrong in the pictures.
- Prompt them by asking: "What are some things that are wrong with this picture?"
- Provide them time to search and respond.
- Encourage your few to fix the pictures by drawing or writing what they think could make things better.
- Give them a chance to share what they're fixing.
- Ask: "What's something that makes you feel disappointed when it happens?"

What You Say:

*"When everything is picture perfect, it's easy to be content. It's easy to put a smile on because everything IS okay. But, when we look around and notice that things are missing or maybe life isn't looking so perfect, it can be hard to trust that everything will be okay in the end. Thankfully, we have a God that we can trust and depend on. [Bottom Line] **God can help you be okay no matter what.** He may not always work things out the way we want Him to, or fix our picture to look exactly how we were thinking, but He can help us be okay with whatever happens. That is pretty awesome!"*

3. More to Life

[Memory Verse Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others & build on their understanding

What You Need: "No Matter What" Activity Pages from previous activity; pens/markers; Bibles

What You Do:

- Help kids find Luke 12:15 in their Bibles.
- Read the verse together as a group several times.

- Instruct kids to write out the verse at the bottom of their "No Matter What" Activity Pages.
- Discuss each scenario on the page by asking the question, "How could we learn to be okay even if everything didn't get fixed like it did through what you drew/wrote?"
- Continue until each scenario has been talked through.
- Remind your few of the personal examples that were brought up in the "No Matter What" activity and ask, "How could you learn to be okay when _____ happens?" (Insert a couple examples that were shared earlier.)

What You Say:

*"Our verse today is telling us that our life will not automatically be great by having more things or changing what we think could be better! Thankfully, we get to worship a God who cares about our needs so we can always talk to Him about what's going on in our world. Aren't you glad that [Bottom Line] **God can help you be okay no matter what?**"*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask your few to think about their examples from earlier of things that make them feel disappointed.
- Encourage them to praise God for helping us be okay when those things happen.
- Give kids a moment to pray silently and then close your time together with a prayer of your own.

What You Say:

*"Dear God, I know I can sometimes be focused on the things I want more of, or even the things I believe I need. Today I want to worship you for all that You have given us. I pray that you help me remember that [Bottom Line] **God can help you be okay no matter what.** Help me to remember that my life is all about You and not the things I have. In Jesus' name, amen."*

*As adults arrive to pick up, have each kid show their parent their "No Matter What" page. Prompt each kid to share one of the scenarios and say, [Bottom Line] **"God can help you be okay no matter what."***