



## WEEK TWO - OCTOBER 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Just Can't Get Enough • Hebrews 13:5*

**Bottom Line:** *Stuff can't keep you happy.*

**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:** Next, we look at Hebrews 13:5, Don't be controlled by love for money. Be happy with what you have. God has said, "I will never leave you. I will never desert you," (NIRV). The writer of Hebrews knows something about contentment. The writer reminds us that nothing we own can ever make us happy. Our focus should be on our relationship with God.

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

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### **1. Early Arriver Idea**

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

**What You Need:** Butcher paper; markers; masking tape

**What You Do:**

- Tape one piece of butcher paper on a wall close to your group.
- Choose one kid to go first, explaining that you will be playing a drawing game.
- Encourage them to draw their absolute favorite thing, while the others will attempt to guess what it is.
- If no one guesses correctly after about 45-60 seconds, let the kid tell everyone what he's drawing.
- After each kid's turn, ask, "Why is this your favorite thing?"
- Instruct kids to write their name on their paper before they sit down.
- Continue until every kid in your group has had a turn.

### **2. Simon Says**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Play "Simon Says" together as a group.
  - Choose one kid to be "Simon."
  - Simon tells the rest of the group what they must do.
  - However, the others can only obey the actions Simon displays when he says, "Simon says."
  - If Simon does not say, "Simon says," first, then kids should not do the action. (Example: If Simon says, "Simon says touch your head," you will touch your head. If Simon says, "Touch your head," you will not touch your head.)
  - Encourage kids to do the actions themselves when they're Simon, and to move quickly, so as to try to confuse their peers!
- Continue as time and interest allow. Rotate Simons quickly in an effort to make sure everyone has a chance to be Simon.

**What You Say:**

*"Whew! I always get confused when playing that game. You all did an amazing job at listening closely when Simon was telling you what to do. How did it make you feel to have all of your moves controlled by Simon? (Allow time for responses.) [Transition] Today in*

*Large Group, we're going to learn about something else that can control us if we let it."*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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

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### **OVERVIEW:**

**Bottom Line:** *Stuff can't keep you happy.* Getting something new can be exciting, and even make you happy for a time. But as we know, that feeling of happiness doesn't last forever because what we own was never meant to do that. We hope that kids leave with the idea that only God can satisfy their needs and give them joy in spite of what they do or don't own.

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

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### **1. Take Control**

#### **[Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:** Masking tape; "Take Control" cards from Activity Page; straws; Bible

#### **What You Do:**

- Hand out one straw to each kid.
- Divide your group into two teams and use masking tape to make a line between the teams.
- Provide each team with a set of cards from the Activity Pages and encourage them to scatter them on the floor around them on their side of the tape.
- Tell kids that each team's side of the tape represents what is inside their hearts! It's not what's literally inside, but what they allow their hearts to want and to focus on.
- Explain that the goal is to protect their hearts by blowing the items on the floor over to the other team's side, using only the air blown through their straws.
- The team with the least amount of items at the end of the game wins!
- Do a few rounds, as time and interest allow. Provide one or two minutes for each round.

#### **What You Say:**

*"You all really know how to play some great defense! Way to go for working together as a team. In our game, we pretended that this line represents what you allow to cross over*

*into your heart—something you love a whole lot! What kinds of things do you love? (Provide time for responses. Encourage answers that include physical things like toys and technology, as well as names of friends and family members.) Having the newest drone is not a bad thing. But loving that new drone more than anything is where we can get ourselves into trouble.*

*"What are some things you love more than anything? (Allow time for responses. Prompt them with questions such as: Who takes care of you? Mom? Dad? Grandparents? Who made you and this whole earth? God. Who do you love spending time with? Friends, family, teammates, etc.) Those are all great answers! How can loving a brand new toy turn into a NOT great thing? (This can be a difficult question, so allow plenty of time for thinking. Help them land on something like, 'If you love the new toy so much that you're not nice to your family and friends.')* You all gave amazing examples. You know, the thing is, **[Bottom Line] stuff can't keep you happy.** Our verse for today says this. (Read Hebrews 13:5 from the Bible.) So whenever we get new stuff or find something we really love doing, we have to make sure we don't end up making those things more important than the people in our lives."

**[Make It Personal]** (Share a personal story from a time you found yourself loving something more than God. Share about how you realized that God is so much greater.)

## 2. Would You Rather

### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** "A" & "B" Activity Pages

### What You Do:

- Point out the "A" and "B" papers to the group.
- Tell kids you're going to give them a choice, and then they should run to either A or B, depending on which choice they would make.
- Read the choices in the list below.
- After each time kids run to A or B, ask for a volunteer to tell the group why they chose the option they did.
- Continue until all questions have been answered.
- Would you rather have:
  - A) three old video games or B) one brand new video game
  - A) four tablets or B) one really big screen TV
  - A) a birthday party with all of your friends or B) a trip to your favorite place on earth
  - A) five tacos or B) one super stuffed burrito
  - A) one week of half days at school or B) three days off school

- A) your favorite sports team winning one huge game or B) your least favorite team losing ten games
- A) 200 spoonsful of hot sauce or B) one sardine
- A) clean the entire house by yourself for one day or B) do dishes every day for one year
- A) five small quizzes or B) one big test
- A) 500 jumping jacks or B) running one mile

### What You Say:

*"It was so fun trying to figure out the best answer possible for each question! Did any of you guys have a hard time deciding the best option? (Allow time for responses.) Twelve tacos sounded pretty amazing to some of you, but maybe not good enough to replace a video game. You see, having more of something doesn't always equal having the better end of the deal. Even when we want more of something, we have to always remember that [Bottom Line] **stuff can't keep you happy**. Why can't stuff keep you happy? (Promote answers such as: stuff eventually gets old, we get tired of it, there's more to life than just having stuff, etc.) Right! God made us for more than just people who have stuff or fun things. He wants us to be good friends to each other, to love our families and friends, and ultimately He created us to have a friendship with Him!*

### 3. Fill in the Blank

#### [Memory Verse Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Kids' pictures from the "Early Arriver" activity

#### What You Do:

- Look up this month's memory verse (Luke 12:15) and read it aloud together.
- Set out the markers and instruct kids to write the memory verse somewhere on their pictures from earlier.
- Explain that as a group, you are going to recite the verse together again, only this time you will replace the word "things" with someone's "thing" they drew on their paper.
- Tell kids what your favorite thing is, and then use your item as an example. For instance, if your favorite thing is a vanilla latte, you would say, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more vanilla lattes."
- Recite the verse together as a group, and when you get to "more and more," point to someone to shout out their favorite thing.
- Continue reciting memory verse together as time and interest allow, or until each kid has had a turn to shout out their item.

### What You Say:

*"You all drew some pretty amazing pieces of art at the beginning of our time together today. But having more and more of our most favorite thing is not what life is made up of. When we let ourselves only focus on or think about our toys, money, clothes, or any other stuff, we can really be let down. What can we do when we feel like all we can think about is a certain toy or getting more and more stuffed animals? One thing you can do is to use that thing you really like to help or play with someone else! (Ask kids to give you some examples of how they could use their favorite thing for someone else's benefit.) Thankfully, we can also remind ourselves that [Bottom Line] **stuff can't keep you happy, but God totally can.**"*

#### **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:**

- Encourage your few to close their eyes and think about the favorite thing they drew today.
- If they still have their drawings nearby, let them hold those while you pray

##### **What You Say:**

*"Dear God, I thank You for the many blessings You have given us. You provide for our needs and even some of our wants as well. God, I know it's not a bad thing to be excited about the things I have, like my toys or maybe my favorite outfit, but I want You to know that none of those things even comes close to my love for You. Help me to enjoy the things I have, but don't allow my heart to be controlled by them. I will remember that [Bottom Line] **stuff can't keep you happy. In Jesus' name, amen.**"*

***As adults arrive to pick up, have each kid show their adult their drawing. Prompt kids to share what they drew, and tell parents to ask them what is even better than their favorite thing.***