



WEEK TWO - OCTOBER 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

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

Key Question: *Why do you still want stuff if it 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.

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - FREE PLAY

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - PRESERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Get Your Head in the Game

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building & designing

What You Need: String or yarn; "Got Stuff" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Form two teams.
- Give each team five strands of string, yarn, or any of the optional supplies suggested in "Get Ready" above.
- Show one student from each team the same "Got Stuff?" card without letting anyone else see it.
- At your signal, teams will race to guess the image as their teammate uses the yarn to outline it on the floor in front of them.
- The team that gets the first correct guess is the winner.
- Repeat until everyone has had a turn to "draw" with the yarn at least once.

What You Say:

"Most of us have more stuff than we know what to do with. Even if we don't have everything we want, we generally have everything we need. It seems like the more we have the happier we should be, right? That's not always the case. Let's go to Large Group and discover what's often missing when people look like they have everything."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *Why do you still want stuff if it can't keep you happy? Our kids are growing up in one of the most consumer-driven cultures in history. They don't have to look very far before they run into someone promoting the idea that more stuff will make you happy. Of course, we soon find out, that's a myth. Yet we still want more stuff! We hope preteens get the chance to wrestle with*

why they feel this way, and come up with a plan to find contentment when they start feeling the need for more stuff.

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

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Play a game of "Would You Rather - More or Less" by asking students to choose whether they would rather have more or less of the two items from the list below.
 - For example, "Would you rather have more candy and less gum, or would you rather have less candy and more gum?"
 - After you've gone through the list below, let students suggest other items people want more or less of.
 - Books and bacon
 - Pillows and pizza
 - Snow and swimming pools
 - Friends and money
 - Coffee and orange juice
 - Vacations and video games
 - Broccoli and carrots
 - Time and talents
 - Dogs and cats
 - Cool clothes and cool electronic stuff
- Discuss their answers.
 - What's something you've "obsessed" over until you finally got it? Do you still have it? Explain.
 - What did you buy or receive as a gift within the last year that you no longer have or care about?
 - Are there any good reasons for wanting more and more?

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What are some things that keep us from being content?
 - Does someone else make us feel discontent or is it our own doing?
 - How can we use what we know about God to help us learn to be content?
 - Do you think it's easier to be content if your family is rich or poor? Why?
 - Since nothing you spend money on lasts forever, what are better things to focus on having?
 - How can you keep from being that kid who has to have what everyone else has?

3. Verses to Take with You

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; "Foolish Rich Guy" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Ask students to form teams of two or three.
- Give each team a Bible and a set of shuffled cards from "Foolish Rich Guy" Activity Page.
- Invite teams to look up Luke 12:15-21 and take turns reading the verses within their groups.
- After each verse, have the reader choose one of the "Foolish Rich Guy" cards that he/she thinks shows the verse he/she read.
- Continue reading and lining up the cards on the floor in the order of the story.
- When finished, invite teams to retell the parable in their own words using the cards as prompts.
- If you choose, make this activity a race between teams!
- Discuss the parable.
 - What would you say was the rich man's biggest mistake? Where did he start to go wrong?
 - Why did God call him a fool?
 - If Jesus was going to use this parable as an example of a WISE Rich Guy, how might the story need to change in order for that to happen?
 - What can we do to not get caught up in having more and more and end up being just another Foolish Rich Guy?

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Remind students of the warning Jesus gave at the beginning of the Parable of the Foolish Rich Man. Read Luke 12:15 aloud.
- Give the group a few minutes to talk to God about any struggles they have in wanting more and more stuff. What's one thing they typically want more and more of?
- Encourage them to ask for God's help to be content no matter what they have or don't have.

What You Say:

""Dear Jesus, we need Your help to be content. We tend to think more about what we don't have instead of what we do have. Give us a grateful attitudes for all You've given us. Rather than focusing on stuff, help us to see what matters most: our relationships with You and with one another. In Your name we pray. Amen.""