



## WEEK ONE - OCTOBER 2018 - KINDERGARTEN/FIRST

**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.

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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 and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Scrap paper; pencils

#### **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.

### **2. More or Less?**

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation & discovery*

**What You Need:** N/A

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

- Explain that kids will be comparing numbers of things they see in the room.
- You'll give them two items, and they will figure out which has more and which has less. (You may need to explain that more means which item has a higher number and less means which has the lower number.)
- Guide them to compare the following items. They can be free to move around your space if needed.
  - Boys vs. girls
  - Eyes vs. noses
  - Windows vs. doors
  - Tie-on shoes vs. slip-on shoes
  - Kids vs. SGLs
  - Skirts vs. pants
  - Circles vs. squares (Encourage them to look at things such as the carpet/tile, light fixtures, curtains, clothing, supplies, etc.)

- Anything else that you could compare in your space

**What You Say:**

*"This month we're going to be learning a lot about more and less. [Transition] Let's go to Large Group and find out what it's all about."*

*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:** *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.

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

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**1. Nature v. Nurture**

**[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:**

- Guide kids to do some learned skills:
  - Tie shoes
  - Do jumping jacks
  - Sing the alphabet song
  - Do a somersault
- Explain that those are all things they had to learn to do.
- Talk about some other things they have learned to do, such as: play games, make a sandwich, write their name, color a rainbow, etc.
- Ask kids to do some things that come naturally:
  - Walk

- Chew / swallow
- Move their arm
- Smile
- Explain that those are things they didn't have to learn. They just naturally were able to do them from the time they were born or when they got a little bit older.
- Talk about some other things people don't have to learn, such as: talk, sleep, crawl, hear, see, etc.

### **What You Say:**

*"We've seen that 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 to do. It's not something that comes naturally. We have to think about it and ask God to help us do it. In Large Group, we heard this from the Apostle Paul: I have learned to be content no matter what happens to me (Philippians 4:11b NIV). How was he able to do that? Because he trusted in God. He knew he would be okay because [Bottom Line] **God can help you be okay no matter what.**"*

## **2. How to Become Content**

### **[Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** "Contentment Options Pictures" Activity Pages, "Contentment Scenarios" Activity Page, crayons

### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid a set of pictures, and set out the crayons.
- As kids color their pictures, explain that each picture represents something you can do help you become content with a situation:
  - Bible: You can read the Bible and remember verses you've memorized.
  - Question Mark: You can ask God for help to be content.
  - Mouth: You can talk to God when you have a bad attitude.
- Then read the scenarios from the Activity Page.
- After each one is read, kids should hold up the picture that shows the option they would choose in that situation to help them become content

### **What You Say:**

*"It's not always easy to be content, is it? There are a lot of things that can happen throughout just one day that make us upset, angry, or just sad that something else didn't happen that we think would be better. But we can be content no matter what, because God can help us. We can remember verses that will help us be content. We can ask God to help*

*us. And we can talk to Him when we have a bad attitude. [Bottom Line] God can help you be okay no matter what."*

### **3. Watch Out!**

#### **[Memory Verse Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** "Watch Out" Activity Pages, Bibles, crayons

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

- Help kids look up Luke 12:15 in their Bibles.
- Explain that the first thing the verse commands is to "WATCH OUT!"
- Hand out the Activity Pages and guide kids to trace over the words in the bubble.
- Allow kids to color the picture while you discuss below.

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

*"Our verse tells us to watch out. That means we need to be on the lookout for things other people have or get to do that we want and that can make us not be content. What are some things we can watch out for? (You may need to help with this. Answers might include: Somebody else gets the toy I really wanted. I come in third in the race. My brother gets an extra treat before bedtime. My sister gets to go to the corn maze with her friends.)*  
**[Make It Personal]** *(Tell kids about something you need to watch out for that might make you discontent. Make sure it's age appropriate. Maybe it's someone getting a nicer car than you have. Or perhaps it's when somebody goes on an exotic vacation.)*  
*It's not always easy to be content, but [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 kids to think again about something that typically makes them discontent. (They did this during the memory verse activity.)
- Guide them to each finish this verse: "God, help me to be content when . . ." If you think your group will be comfortable praying this out loud, encourage them to do so.
- Close with the prayer below.

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

*"Dear God, we know it's not always easy to be content, but we also know you'll help us if we ask. You'll give us strength through Your Word, and you'll help us to not have a bad attitude when we talk to you about it. Help us to be content when we face things like (say some things the kids mentioned earlier). In Jesus' name, amen."*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage them to ask kids what their "WATCH OUT" papers are all about.***