



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Shiny suit jacket
- Prop game show microphone, made with a foam craft ball, thin dowel rod, and black or silver spray paint (see “What You Do”)
- One Small Group Leader
- Four wrapped banker’s boxes with separately wrapped lids; labeled “Box 1-3” and “Mystery Box”
- Three different prizes that could be shared with an entire small group (for example, party favors from Oriental Trading or the dollar store, fruit snacks, etc.)
- One mystery prize that could be shared with an entire small group
  - Bag of candy
- Table

#### Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Cheesy game show music (suggestion: “Spanish Flea” by Herb Alpert, starting at 0:05)

#### Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Contentment Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide

- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

### What You Do:

- To create the game show microphone, push the dowel into the foam ball. Paint it with black or silver spray paint.
- Wrap the four boxes with different wrapping paper. Wrap the lids separately so it's easy to open the boxes. Label the boxes "Box 1-3" and "Mystery Box." *NOTE: Save these boxes so you can use them in future weeks as well.*
- Place the prizes into the boxes. Place the three game boxes on the table and the Mystery Box close by. *NOTE: Save the prizes you don't use this time, because you can use them in future weeks as well. You'll need three prizes plus a mystery prize each week.*
- Cue the game show music to start at the right time. You can set this in iTunes under Song Info/Options, or you can trim the track using QuickTime.

## 2. Bible Story

### What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Host
- About six feet of metal chains
- Two printed signs on long dowel rods, using the "sad face" and "okay" emoji signs (Large Group Visuals) printed on cardstock
- Bucket of strips of paper that the kids wrote on during Small Group (see "What You Do")

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Emoji Signs

### What You Do:

- In Social (Small Group time before Large Group), the kids will be sharing about tough things they've experienced. Their Leaders will write these down on slips of paper. Make a plan to collect these slips of paper in a bucket before the kids come to Large Group. Coach your Storyteller to look at these during the Opener and Worship and choose two of them to read out loud. The two examples that the Storyteller shares publicly should be general examples that lots of kids may have experienced (i.e. having to move, losing a pet)—nothing too specific or traumatic.
- Print the "Sad face emoji" and "Okay emoji" signs on cardstock and cut them out. Tape them to the dowel rods. They can be found in the file labeled "1810\_LG\_Asset\_K3\_W1"

### **3. Worship**

#### **What You Need:**

- We Are Royals
- Through It All

# That's All Right

**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.

## **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

**CG:** *Theme Slide*

*Host enters, wearing a shiny suit jacket and holding a game show-style microphone.*

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "Hey, everybody! I'm so excited to see you today. My name is [Host's name], and if you don't know this already, this place is super fun! We're going to have a great time today.

"You might be wondering why I'm dressed like this. You'll find out in just a few minutes. But first, because we're starting a brand-new month, we're introducing a brand-new Life App! Are you ready to hear what it is? *(Pause.)* Okay! Can you pat your legs with me and help me with a drum roll? Great! Here we go! Our new Life App is CONTENTMENT!

**CG:** *Contentment Slide*

**"Contentment is deciding to be okay with what you have.**

"You know, contentment isn't always easy. Sometimes it's really hard to be content when you've used up all your screen time and you feel really bored or when your little brother gets to have dessert because he finished his dinner, and you're still sitting at the table with a plate full of lima beans. Yep, contentment can be hard. But have no fear, because I think I've figured out a way to help us practice! Who's ready for a game?"

**SFX:** *Cheesy game show music (suggestion: "Spanish Flea" by Herb Alpert, starting at 0:05)*

*(In a cheesy game show voice)* "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to 'More or Less?' the fantastic game

show where you can win fabulous prizes for yourself and your friends!

“Let me get one lucky Small Group Leader up here to be today’s contestant.

*Bring up a Small Group Leader.*

*(To Leader)* “Thanks for playing, [Leader’s name]. Which small group are you playing for today? *(Pause for response.)* Great!

*Walk to the table with the three prize boxes.*

“Here’s how this works. First, you’ll choose one of these three prizes. Then you’ll have the opportunity to trade that prize for a mystery prize, which could be ‘More or Less’ amazing. So, for example, you might start out with a bag of candy for your prize. If you trade it for the mystery prize, you might get a picnic basket full of snacks for your small group, OR you might get a box of toilet paper! Whether you get the picnic basket full of snacks or the box of toilet paper, your challenge is to be content with whatever you get.

“All right, [Leader’s name]. Choose a prize and open it!

*Leader chooses one of the three boxes and opens it.*

“Oh, wow! What a great prize! Your small group could really enjoy something like that!

“The question is: Are you going to be content with that prize? Or would you like to trade for what’s in the Mystery Box? Remember, it could be anything!

*Bring out the Mystery Box. Get the crowd to weigh in on what the Leader should do. (Most likely they’ll want her to see what’s in the Mystery Box. If not, you can encourage them in that direction.)*

“All right! Let’s see what’s in the Mystery Box. Is it better or worse than what you’ve got? Is it more or less?

*Host trades boxes with the Leader. Leader opens the Mystery Box.*

“Amazing! It’s a \_\_\_\_\_. *(To Leader)* Now the true test: Can you be content? Can you be okay with what you have? *(Pause for response.)* Fantastic!

“Well, folks, there you have it. Let’s give [Leader’s name] a hand!

*Dismiss the Leader to her seat.*

“Next week, we’ll play another round of ‘More or Less?’

## Announcements

*Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.*

**HOST:** “I’m so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it’s your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you, get a high five and show you around. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. Mission is for YOU!

I have just a few announcements for you all today...

*Share any/all announcements.*

Now let’s all stand up, get close, give someone a high five and let’s sing and worship together!

*Host exits and Worship Leader enters.*

## Worship

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Thank you, *[Name of Host]*. Let’s get up and get loud as we sing and dance for who God is and what he’s done for us!

### *We Are Royals*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “That was amazing! (*Take a moment to say something about the next song*). So let’s give everything we have and worship God together!

### *Through It All*

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

*Storyteller enters with a Bible as Worship Leaders exit.*

### *CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide*

## SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! This month we’re talking about contentment.

**CG:** *Contentment Slide*

“Remember, **contentment is deciding to be okay with what you have.**

“There was a man named Paul in the Bible (*hold up Bible*) who wrote some really great things about learning to be content. He wrote these things down in a letter, and that letter became part of the New Testament in our Bible. Let’s look at these verses—”

*Host runs out onto the stage and interrupts.*

**HOST:** “Wait, wait, wait! Can I read them?”

**STORYTELLER:** “Oh, hi, [Host’s name]. What did you say?”

**HOST:** “Do you think I could tell the verses? They’re so good! Please, please, please, can I?”

**STORYTELLER:** “Of course! Go ahead.”

*Storyteller hands the Bible to Host.*

**HOST:** “Yes! I love these verses because they remind me that I can do ANYTHING! Here’s Philippians chapter 4, verses 11-13.

*Host opens the Bible to Philippians 4:11b-13 (NirV) and reads.*

*“I have learned to be content no matter what happens to me. I know what it’s like not to have what I need. I also know what it’s like to have more than I need. I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength.*

“See what I mean? It’s like Paul is saying that I can do ANYTHING because Jesus gives me strength!”

**STORYTELLER:** “That’s right!”

**HOST:** “I can be kind to my friends and my enemies because Jesus gives me strength.”

**STORYTELLER:** “That’s true.”

**HOST:** “I can be brave when I feel afraid because Jesus gives me strength.”

**STORYTELLER:** “You got it!”

**HOST:** “I can be the quarterback for the [your favorite NFL team] because Jesus gives me strength!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Well . . . I’m not so sure about that.”

**HOST:** “What do you mean? These verses say I can do ANYTHING! That means I can be an NFL quarterback . . . right?”

**STORYTELLER:** “Well, maybe that wasn’t EXACTLY what Paul was saying.

*Storyteller takes the Bible back from Host.*

“Remember, he was talking about learning how to be content. Let me ask you a question: What do you think Paul was doing when he wrote that verse?”

**HOST:** “He was obviously having a fabulous day! He had probably just won the big relay race at field day. Or maybe he just aced his spelling test with an A+. Things were going GREAT!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Okay, let me tell you about what was REALLY happening when Paul wrote those words.”

### **HELLO FROM THE OTHER SIDE**

**STORYTELLER:** *(To audience)* “When Paul wrote about being content in any situation, he had actually been arrested!

“He hadn’t done anything wrong, but some of the people in charge didn’t like the way he was telling other people about Jesus. So they forced him to stay in a house, like a prisoner in a jail. He was chained up to a guard so he couldn’t escape.

*Host holds up the chains.*

“He had no freedom. He was probably super bored, with nothing to do. He had every reason to feel sad and even angry about what had happened to him.

*Host holds up the sad emoji sign.*

“But instead, Paul chose to be content. He decided to be okay.

*Host holds up the okay emoji sign in front of the sad emoji.*

“He knew the secret of being content no matter what happened to him. He could choose contentment—even when things were tough—because Jesus gave him strength.”

*Host puts down the chains.*



## WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY

**STORYTELLER:** “What about YOU? When things don’t go your way, how do you feel like reacting? Today in your small groups, you wrote down some hard things that have happened in your life.

*Hold up the bucket filled with slips of paper from Small Group.*

*Note: Look at these slips of paper during the Opener and Worship and choose two of them to read out loud. The two examples that you share publicly should be general examples that lots of kids may have experienced (i.e. having to move, losing a pet)—nothing too specific or traumatic. If you don’t have Small Group time before Large Group, you can share two hypothetical examples of things kids might experience instead.*

“Maybe you’re like one person who wrote that . . . *(share something that a kid wrote, but not the name of who wrote it)*. It’s hard to be content when something like that happens.

“Or maybe you wrote down something like this. *(Share something that a kid wrote, but not the name of who wrote it.)*

“This bucket is full of tough things that lots of us have had to face in our lives. Maybe when those kinds of things happen to you, you feel like no one cares. Maybe you feel like it’s never going to get better. Maybe you feel like you’ll never be okay again.”

*Host holds up the sad emoji sign.*

## WHAT IF?

**STORYTELLER:** “But what if you could be content in any situation—like Paul?”

*Host holds the okay emoji sign in front of the sad emoji.*

“What if you found a way to be okay even when things around you weren’t going okay? How would you respond to those same situations if you were being content?”

“Maybe contentment means that you could focus on the good things that are happening in your life—not just the bad. Maybe contentment means that you could trust God and remember what’s true: that He loves you and He’ll never leave you. Maybe contentment means that you could focus on encouraging someone else—like Paul did—and helping THEM feel better when they’re going through a tough time.”

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

*Storyteller picks up the chains and hands them to Host.*

**STORYTELLER:** “That’s what Paul was talking about when he wrote these verses. (*Hold up Bible.*) In every kind of situation, he could still find a way to be content because Jesus gave him the strength to be okay.

*Storyteller points to the okay emoji sign, which Host is still holding up.*

“Can you read those verses for us one more time, Paul . . . I mean, [Host’s name]?”

*Storyteller takes the emoji signs from Host and hands him the Bible. Host opens the Bible to Philippians 4:11b-13 (NirV) and reads (with enthusiasm!).*

**HOST:** “*I have learned to be content no matter what happens to me. I know what it’s like not to have what I need. I also know what it’s like to have more than I need. I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength*” (NirV).

**STORYTELLER:** “Right! If God could help Paul learn to be content when he was stuck in a house like a prisoner, then God can definitely help us to be content when things don’t go our way.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “God can help you be okay no matter what.

“When things are good or when things aren’t so good—even if you get a bad grade on your spelling test or you find out your friend is moving away—**[Bottom Line]** God can help you be okay no matter what.

“Will you say that with me?”

**KIDS, HOST and STORYTELLER:** **[Bottom Line]** “God can help you be okay no matter what.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

**STORYTELLER:** “That’s right! God is always there. **[Basic Truth]** You can trust Him no matter what. He can help you to be okay no matter what you might face in life. Let’s pray and thank Him for always being there for us.”

**Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for this great reminder that You can help us to be okay in any situation. Sometimes it’s hard for us to be content when things don’t go our way. Help us to remember to pray and talk to You. Help us to trust You and remember that You’re always with

us—when things are good and when things are tough, too. Please give us Your strength so we can learn to be okay no matter what. We love You, and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Storyteller exits.*

**Closer**

**HOST:** “You know, when things go wrong, being content probably isn’t the first thing we think of. When you lose your favorite pencil, you probably don’t think to yourself, ‘It’s okay. I’ve got this other pencil, too.’ Your first thought is probably that you’re really sad about the one you lost.

“That’s why you have to make the choice to be content. You have to decide to be okay with what you have. Remember what Paul said? *I have LEARNED to be content no matter what happens to me (Philippians 4:11b NIV; emphasis added)*. It wasn’t like he was thinking, ‘Yay! I’m stuck as a prisoner in this house even though I didn’t do anything wrong!’ Of course he wanted to be free. But even though he was in a not-so-great situation, he chose to focus on what he knew was true. He found a way to be okay.

“Paul was able to do it because of the strength that comes from knowing Jesus. The Holy Spirit was living inside him, helping him to choose to be okay.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “God can help you be okay no matter what.**

“When tough things happen to you, when you find yourself wishing things were different, when you find yourself wanting MORE, remember what Paul said. Remember that you can choose contentment, too. You can decide to be okay with what you have.

“Let’s check out our memory verse for this month. It’s something Jesus said, and we can find it in Luke chapter 12, verse 15.

**CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide**

**CG: Memory Verse Slide**

*“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 NIV).*

“So many times we want MORE or we want what someone else has, and we want things to be different. But what if, instead, we changed our attitude? What if we decided to be content? What if we decided to be okay with what we have?

“I know all you have some great ideas about that, and you’ll get to talk about them back in Small Group right now!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

*SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.*

*CG: Theme Slide*

*Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video*