

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

In My Life

Israelites Long for Egypt
Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss out on what you have now.

HOST SUPPLIES

- Large, clear plastic bin filled with bike parts for the game:
 - Bike horn
 - Bike bell
 - Bike helmet
 - Index card
 - Bike tassel
 - Knee/elbow pad
 - Other bike-related items that don't make any sound, just to make the game more challenging
- Two blindfolds
- Dry erase board and marker

STORY SUPPLIES

- Host (playing Moses)
- Other adult helper to play Aaron (Worship Leader, Small Group Leader, etc.)
- Bible
- Biblical men's costumes and fake beards for Moses and Aaron
- Staff for Moses
- Large object on stage to be the "rock"
- Water bottle

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- NONE

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

- Week 1 – The Best Is Yet To Come & The Blessing
- Week 2 – Might Get Loud & Way Maker
- **Week 3 – There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Never Lost**
- Week 4 – This Is Living & Graves Into Gardens

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

In My Life
Israelites Long for Egypt
Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss out on
what you have now.

MONTHLY 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, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Contentment—Learning to be okay with what you have

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "Everybody get on your feet!"

AUDIO: There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

AUDIO: Never Lost

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "What's up, everybody? I woke up today thinking about how excited I am to be here with you at [your environment's name]. This month, we're talking about contentment.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Contentment is learning to be okay with what you have.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"It can be tough to be content when we want what other people have, or when we wish things could be different than they are. But even in those times, God can help us be okay. He can help us choose to be thankful.

"I've got a fun way for us to get started today, with a game I like to call, 'Name That Bike Sound!' Let me get two Small Group Leaders to join me on stage.



WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

Bring two leaders on stage.

“In just a minute, I’ll bring out a bunch of bike-related items for our contestants. We’ll play a sound, then they’ll try to find the item that makes that sound. Sounds easy enough, right? *(Pause.)* Well, it **WOULD** be . . . if they weren’t blindfolded! That’s right. They’ll have to feel around blindfolded to find the item that makes the sound. The first person who holds up the correct item, gets a point. Sound good? Let’s begin!

Give a blindfold to each leader. THEN bring out the clear plastic bin full of bike-related items. Set the bin on the table in front of the leaders.

To play the game, play a sound, then have the leaders choose an item they believe makes each sound. The first person who holds up the correct item gets a point. (Demonstrate the sound using the item, if possible.) Use the dry erase board to keep track of the score and declare the winner at the end.

AUDIO: BIKE SOUNDS, FOLLOWING THE HOST’S CUE (BIKE HORN, BIKE BELL, HELMET CLIP, PAPER ON SPOKES, BIKE TASSELS IN THE WIND, KNEE/ELBOW PADS)

“That was really impressive! Let’s give our fearless leaders a round of applause as they head back to their seats.

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! Today we’ve got another Bible story about contentment. *(Hold up Bible.)* Unfortunately, this is one of those examples of some people who **WEREN’T** very content. But it’s important for us to see what happened so we don’t make the same mistake they did!

“We’re picking up the story with God’s people, the Israelites. The Israelites had lived as slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years. But God had just done the most amazing miracles to rescue them from Egypt! God literally parted the waters of the Red Sea *(gesture with your hands)* so they could walk through on dry land. God’s people were finally free—and God was leading them to a new land that He prepared, just for them. But it didn’t take long for their singing and celebration to turn into whining.

“Now, for today’s story, we’ll all play a part. For example, we have [Host’s name] and [other adult’s name]. They’ll play Moses, the leader of God’s people, and his brother Aaron.

Host and other adult helper enter. They should both wear biblical costumes and fake beards. The Host should hold a staff.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

(to audience) "All of YOU will play the rest of the Israelites. Now, I know that you are really thankful kids. You know how to be content. You would never whine and complain! But, just for today, you have to whine and complain, because you're pretending to be the Israelites. Can you do it? If so, give me a thumbs-up. (Pause.) Great! I'll tell you when it's time to say or do something. Let's get started!"

GOD'S PLAN

STORYTELLER: "God's people complained to Moses and Aaron that they wished they were back in Egypt. Let me hear it in your whiniest voice. 'We wish we were back in Egypt!'"

AUDIENCE: "We wish we were back in Egypt!"

STORYTELLER: "Perfect! Here's how it's described in the Bible. Remember, this is the people talking to Moses and Aaron.

Open the Bible to Exodus 16:3 (NirV) and read.

"The Israelites said to them, 'We wish the Lord had put us to death in Egypt. There we sat around pots of meat. We ate all the food we wanted. But you have brought us out into this desert. You must want this entire community to die of hunger.

"I know. It seems awfully strange that the people would want to go back to Egypt, where they had worked as slaves! God knew the people were hungry, but God also had a good plan to provide food for them. God spoke to Moses.

Host (Moses) looks up with his arms outstretched.

"God said . . .

Open the Bible to Exodus 16:4 (NirV) and read.

"I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people must go out each day. Have them gather enough bread for that day.

"Moses and Aaron called the people together to tell them what God had said.

Host (Moses) and Aaron stand at the front of the stage together and gesture like they're speaking to God's people.

"While Aaron was speaking, the people looked toward the desert, and they could see the glory of the Lord there in a cloud."

HOST (AS MOSES): "Look, everyone! The glory of the Lord—in a cloud!"

Moses and Aaron look off stage and point toward the ceiling.

STORYTELLER: (to audience) "Everybody say, 'Whoaaa.'"

AUDIENCE: "Whoaaa."

STORYTELLER: "Great job! God spoke again to Moses.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Host (Moses) looks up with his arms outstretched.

"God said . . .

Open the Bible to Exodus 16:12 (NIRV) and read.

"I have heard the people of Israel talking about how unhappy they are. Tell them, 'When the sun goes down, you will eat meat. In the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'"

GOD PROVIDES

STORYTELLER: "That evening, lots and lots of quail came and covered the camp. Quail was a kind of bird they could eat. It was kind of like chicken. Everyone say, 'Mmm, quail!'" (*Rub your stomach.*)

AUDIENCE: "Mmm, quail!"

STORYTELLER: "Not only that, the ground around the camp was covered with dew, or little drops of water. As the dew dried, thin flakes like frost appeared. Moses told the people it was the bread God had given them to eat. It tasted sweet, like honey. The people called it 'manna.' Say, 'We call it manna!'"

AUDIENCE: "We call it manna!"

STORYTELLER: "Nice job! Moses told the people to gather only as much as they needed for the day.

Host (Moses) waves his finger at the audience, as if warning them.

"But some people had a tough time being content. They disobeyed God and tried to keep leftovers until the next day. It didn't do them any good, though . . . because overnight, the manna filled with maggots—like little worms. Gross!"

"As long as the Israelites stayed in the desert, God continued to give them fresh manna to eat in the morning. God allowed them to gather a double portion the morning of the sixth day so they could rest on the seventh day. That way, everyone had enough food for every day. Thumbs-up, everybody!"

Give a thumbs-up, and get the kids to give you one back.

COMPLAINING AGAIN!

STORYTELLER: "Eventually, the Israelites came to a place called Rephidim. They had plenty of manna . . . but they didn't have enough water to drink. Can you guess what they started doing again? (*Pause.*) Yep! They started whining and complaining. AGAIN!"

"Give me your whiniest voice. 'Give us water to drink!'" (*Exodus 17:2, NIRV*)

AUDIENCE: "Give us water to drink!"

STORYTELLER: "The people argued with Moses. They said . . .

Open the Bible to Exodus 17:3 (NIRV) and read.

"Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? Did you want us, our children and our livestock to die of thirst?"



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

"Can you believe that? Even though God was leading the Israelites to a new land . . . and helping them every step of the way . . . they kept looking back to the way things were in Egypt. The people got so mad that they were almost ready to throw stones at Moses! Moses cried out to God.

Host (Moses) looks up with his arms outstretched.

"And God answered.

Open the Bible to Exodus 17:5-6 (NIRV) and read.

"Go out in front of the people. Take some of the elders of Israel along with you. Take in your hand the walking stick you used when you struck the Nile River. Go. I will stand there in front of you by the rock at Mount Horeb. Hit the rock. Then water will come out of it for the people to drink.

"Moses did what God said. He hit the rock with a stick.

Host (Moses) smacks something on stage with the staff in dramatic slow motion.

"Sure enough, water came out.

Aaron picks up the water bottle behind the "rock" and holds it in the air.

"The people had water to drink! Let me hear you do this.

Gulp and then say 'Ahhhhh,' like you just took a drink. Get the kids to do the same.

"Fantastic! Thank you ALL for helping me tell the story today. *(To Host and helper)* And thank YOU, Moses and Aaron."

Host and helper bow and exit.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Over and over, God showed that He would take care of the Israelites. God led them to freedom and promised them a new land to live in. And God had given them everything they needed along the way. But still, the Israelites wished they could go back to the way things were, back in Egypt!

"I know it's hard to believe. We look at their story and think, 'Why weren't they content?' I think it's because they didn't pay attention to what God was doing in their lives, right there and then. They forgot to trust God and believe that God was always working for their good.

"If we're not careful, that can happen to us, too. We can miss out on all the good things God is doing in our lives, right now. So let's be content! Let's trust God.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Don't miss out on what you have now."



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THREE
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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us trust Him.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for providing what the Israelites needed. It seems so easy for us to think that they should have been grateful; but we know that we can forget to be content, too. Thank You for providing what WE need. Help us not to miss out because we’re always wanting more. Show us how to be thankful and content for all that You’re doing in our lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “Hey, everyone! I heard Moses was out here earlier. Did you see him?”

“That was fun to act-out the story with all of you. You did a really good job of pretending to be the Israelites! You’d think they would have been so happy that God led them out of slavery and provided what they needed in the desert. But instead, they whined and complained about what they DIDN’T have.

“The same thing can happen to us sometimes. It’s easy for us to think about what we had before, or look forward to what we hope will happen in the future. But contentment means that we look for the things that are good in our lives, right now. We choose to believe that God is working in our lives, even if we can’t always see it. We decide, every day, to **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what.**

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Don’t miss out on what you have now.”

“If you’re having a hard time feeling content, think about all the things God has already done for you. He sent His Son, Jesus, to be your Savior. Jesus died on the cross so that we could have a relationship with God that will last forever. That will ALWAYS be true! If we focus on how much God loves us, that will fill us with hope, joy, and thankfulness, no matter what might happen around us.

“Let’s head to Small Group now and talk some more about how we can be content and thankful!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP