

Microphone

Today's Bible Story: Be OK (Be Content/Paul in Prison) • *Philippians 4:11b-13*

Today's Bottom Line: God can help you be content.

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 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: Contentment—Learning to be okay with what you have

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Leader enters, walking a bike and wearing a bike helmet.

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: "Hello, everyone! Welcome to Kidzone ! I just rode in to hang with all of you. Those are two of my favorite things to do: ride my bike and spend time with you!

"This bike has seen a lot of miles, and some people would think about turning it in—you know, upgrading to get a new one. But I'm a big believer in rolling with what I've got. That's actually what we're talking about this month. It's called 'contentment.'

SLIDE: Life App

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

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

“I can take an old bike like this and make it work. I can grease the brakes . . . refill the tires . . . and even add bling and new safety features like these cool reflector stickers I found!

Hold up a couple of the reflectors or point them out on the bike if you added them.

“I ordered some for my bike and ended up with a lot of leftovers, so I’ve hidden them around the room. You will divide into teams, and we’ll dim the lights. Each of you will get a flashlight. When you find a reflector in your team’s color, you’ll bring it to me. There are [number] reflectors hidden for each team. The first team to find all of their team’s reflectors, wins!

Divide the kids into two teams, and assign a color to each team. Hand out the flashlights.

Note: If you don’t have two different colors, you can make this a race against the clock instead (i.e. which team can find the most reflectors in 60 seconds).

“Any questions? Okay, let’s play!

LIGHTS: Dim or off

AUDIO: Fun music

Stand at the front of the room, and gather the reflectors into two piles as the kids bring them to you. Keep track of the numbers, and as soon as one team has found all of their reflectors, call the winner. Bring up the lights and turn down the music. Collect the

flashlights.

LIGHTS: *Normal*

“Nice job, everyone! Now I can use these to bling out everything I have! Might as well, since I’m learning to roll with what I’ve got. You can stay on your feet, because we’re about to worship God and thank Him for everything He’s given us!”

WORSHIP

REMINDER ABOUT WHAT WORSHIP IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT. REWARD GOOD BEHAVIOR

LEADER: “It’s not always easy to be okay with what you have. But one sure way to find contentment is to learn to trust Jesus. When you trust Him, that means you know that He’s taking care of you and that He’s always by your side. Let’s sing this song that reminds us that Jesus is leading us through every moment of every day!”

VIDEO: *“Jesus I Will Trust You”*

“Before we keep worshipping together, let’s check out this video.

Video (Media Package): *Live Loud Video from Get Reel*

“Paul once wrote to the Philippians: *My God will meet all your needs. (Philippians 4:19, NIV)* That’s true for us, too. God always takes care of us. Let’s sing this new song together and tell God that we will choose to depend on Him!”

Video (Media Package): *“What I Choose”*

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

“I love it when we sing and thank God for all the ways He takes care of us! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “We live in a world where it’s easy to communicate. (*Hold up your phone.*) In two seconds, I could send a text to a friend, or start a video call with my cousin who lives in another country.

“But when the apostle Paul was starting brand-new churches, of course, he didn’t have a phone. It wasn’t this easy (*hold up phone*) for him keep in touch with the new believers in all the different places he had traveled. He had to write each letter by hand. (*Pretend to write in the air.*) Then the letter had to be hand-delivered. Travel was often difficult and dangerous. Letters could take weeks or months to arrive.

“So any time Paul wrote a letter, he chose the most important things to say. Every word mattered. When Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi, he chose to share what he had discovered about contentment.

“Here’s what Paul wrote.

*Open the Bible to Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV)
and read.(volunteer)*

“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 all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength.

“Paul wanted the Philippians to understand that God can help us be okay in ANY situation, no matter what we might face.”

PAUL’S CHANGES

LEADER: “It’s amazing that Paul said all this about contentment, because the truth is, he didn’t exactly have an easy life. I mean, maybe things SEEMED to go that way, back when Paul was a respected, powerful religious leader.

SLIDE: Bible story image #1 (Paul as a religious leader)

“But something was missing. At the time, Paul didn’t yet believe that Jesus was God’s Son. He actually tried to put a stop to the new movement of Jesus-followers. But then everything changed when Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus.

SLIDE: Bible story image #2 (Paul meeting Jesus)

“Jesus appeared to Paul in a blinding flash of light. Suddenly, Paul knew the truth! He believed that Jesus really IS the Son of God and the Savior who God had promised.

SLIDE: Bible story image #3 (Paul telling others about Jesus)

“Now, Paul had an exciting new purpose for his life. He began to tell other people about Jesus, and he helped start new churches in lots of different places.”

PAUL’S STRUGGLES

LEADER: “Unfortunately, that didn’t mean things would be smooth and easy for Paul.

SLIDE: Bible story image #4 (angry leaders)

“Paul’s new beliefs upset both the Jewish leaders, who had been his friends, and local government leaders where Paul traveled, too. They were afraid Paul would cause trouble.

“And it wasn’t just his friend situation that challenged Paul. In the Bible (*hold up Bible*), we can read some of the crazy situations he faced throughout his travels.

SLIDE: Bible story image #5 (Paul writing a letter)

“Paul wrote down some of the things that had happened to him along the way, as we can read in one of his letters to the Corinthians.

Walk to the clothesline with the printouts of images #6-20.

“Paul wrote . . .

SLIDE: Bible story image #6 (prison bars)

Open the Bible to 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 (NIRV) and read.

Stand next to the printed image #6 on the clothesline to match what's on the screen.

I have been in prison.

Turn over image #6 on the clothesline to reveal the first part of Philippians 4:11-13, “I have learned to be content.”

SLIDE: Bible story image #7 (Paul against the wall)

Stand next to the printed image #7 on the clothesline.

I have suffered terrible beatings. Again and again I almost died.

Turn over image #7 on the clothesline.

Continue this process in the same way for the remainder of the story. For each image, stand next to the printout on the clothesline while the image appears on screen. Then turn the printed image over to reveal another part of Philippians 4:11-13.

As you continue to turn over the images on the clothesline, you'll reveal more and more of

Philippians 4:11-13, phrase by phrase, ending with image #20.

SLIDE: Bible story image #8 (shipwreck)

“Three times I was shipwrecked. I spent a night and a day in the open sea.

Turn over image #8 on the clothesline.

“I have had to keep on the move. I have been in danger from rivers. I have been in danger from robbers. I have been in danger from my fellow Jews and in danger from Gentiles.

SLIDE: Bible story image #9 (ancient cityscape)

“I have been in danger in the city . . .

Turn over image #9 on the clothesline.

SLIDE: Bible story image #10 (country landscape)

“. . . in the country . . .

Turn over image #10 on the clothesline.

SLIDE: Bible story image #11 (sea)

“. . . and at sea.

Turn over image #11 on the clothesline.

“I have been in danger from people who pretended they were believers. I have worked very hard.

SLIDE: Bible story image #12 (wide-eyed Paul)

“Often I have gone without sleep.

Turn over image #12 on the clothesline.

"I have been hungry and thirsty.

"Paul truly understood what it was like to face difficult situations of every kind. In fact, when he wrote his words to the Philippians about contentment . . .

SLIDE: Bible story image #13 (Paul under house arrest)

". . . Paul was under arrest and couldn't leave the house!"

Turn over image #13 on the clothesline.

YOUR STORY

LEADER: "Now clearly, your story looks different from Paul's. But I imagine if we asked each person in this room, we'd find all sorts of challenging things that we've faced.

SLIDE: Bible story image #14 (Kid with suitcase)

"Maybe your parents are separated or divorced, and you've had to live one place during the week and another place on the weekend.

Turn over image #14 on the clothesline.

SLIDE: Bible story image #15 (Device with broken screen)

"Maybe you've seen your friends get new devices. Meanwhile, you've still got your sister's hand-me-down tablet with a broken screen.

Turn over image #15 on the clothesline.

SLIDE: Bible story image #16 (Kid with a broken arm)

"Maybe you broke your arm and had to miss your baseball season.

Turn over image #16 on the clothesline.

SLIDE: Bible story image #17 (Summer camp)

“Maybe you had to miss out on summer camp because your mom lost her job.

Turn over image #17 on the clothesline.

SLIDE: Bible story image #18 (Kid alone at the lunch table)

“Maybe you’ve had to sit alone at the lunch table.

Turn over image #18 on the clothesline.

SLIDE: Bible story image #19 (Moving truck)

“Maybe you had to move in the middle of the school year.

Turn over image #19 on the clothesline.

SLIDE: Bible story image #20 (Frowning kid)

“Maybe nothing happened that was even that big of a deal, but it was just a bunch of small things that made for a really bad day.

Turn over image #20 on the clothesline.

“The question is, when things aren’t going your way. . . when you don’t have what you wish you had . . . how can you still be content?”

SLIDE: Theme Background

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “The secret of contentment is what Paul wrote in his letter. Do you remember?

Read the passage from the sheets of paper on the clothesline.

"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 all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength. (Philippians 4:11-13, NIV)"

"Look at that last part: I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength."

"You can find true contentment in your relationship with God. God knows your story. He knows what you have, and what you don't have. But no matter what happens, God loves you! He gave His Son, Jesus, so that you could have a relationship with Him that will last forever."

"God is ALWAYS working things for good! He's provided everything you need to choose contentment. It comes down to this simple truth."

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God can help you be content."

"Let's pray and thank God for being so good to us."

VIDEO: BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for all that You've given us. Thank You for loving us! Sometimes it's tough for us to feel content—especially when things are tough or we want things that someone else has. But we know that what Paul wrote is true: we can always find our strength in You. We can find contentment when we remember how You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Help us choose to be content and learn to be okay with what we have. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING

SAY TOGETHER:

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 all this by the power of Christ.
He gives me strength.

CLOSER

LEADER: “We talked about a lot of tough things we might go through in life. Paul sure knew what that was like. Think of all the crazy things that happened to him as he traveled around to tell people about Jesus!

“But Paul said he knew the secret that helped him be content through it all.

Point to the last two sheets on the clothesline.

“I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13, NIV)”

“At the end of the day, your relationship with God is your TRUE source of contentment.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “God can help you be content. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: ***[Bottom Line]*** “God can help you be content.”

LEADER: “When you put your trust in Jesus, you can rely on Him and the Holy Spirit to give you strength when you’re not content about something. You can choose to be content when you choose to ***[Basic Truth]*** trust God no matter what.

“So when something doesn’t go the way you expect, talk to God about it. Ask Him to help you see your situation in a new way.

“Let’s head over to Small Group and chat some more about how we can be content, no matter what!”

SLIDE: Theme Background with music

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (25 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Adult-sized bike (ideally, an older bike that looks like it's been through a lot, maybe even splattered with mud or dirt; you'll use this all month)
- Bike helmet (for the Leader)
- Lots of reflectors, ideally in two colors (such as this: <https://amzn.to/3tO91ic>)
- Small flashlights (one for each kid)
- Bible

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Jesus I Will Trust You" from *This Love*
- "What I Choose" from *Make a Move*

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "What I Choose" Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Leader
- Bible
- Leader's phone
- Bible Story Images #6-20, printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline, with enough room to hang 15 letter-size images (landscape)

- Clothespins
- Marker

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Bible Story Images (slides for #1-20, and printed pages for #6-20)

- Set up a clothesline where you can hang the printed Bible story images (#6-20). Hang up the printed images, in order, from left to right. During the story, you'll flip the images around so that the Philippians 4:11-13 passage becomes visible.

One Thing—Articulate your faith (TALK)

Live Loud—Worship with your life (LIVE)

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Graphic motion loops
- Themed audio transitions
- Life App and monthly widget promo videos (M.C. Haggis)
- Countdown videos (30 and 60 seconds)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Life App
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday