

Sour Grapes

Bible: Sour Grapes (King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard) • *1 Kings 21:1-19, 27*

Bottom Line: Wanting what others have can make you miserable.

Key Question: What can you do when all you can think about is what someone else has?

Memory Verse: “Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.’” *Luke 12:15 (NIV)*

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

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Get Your Head in the Game

- No supplies needed

10:15

Just For Fun

- No supplies needed

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Discussion Questions

- No supplies needed

10:15

Take a Snapshot

- Sheets of green and white paper cut into fourths (approximately four-inch squares); enough for each student to have one square of each color.

Prayer: Making it Personal (9:55, 11:10, 12:25)

- No supplies needed

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 10 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's Bible Truth.

Recognizing our own flaws can be really difficult to do and even more painful once we finally do. Pray that God would give you sensitivity and wisdom as you help your students process times in their lives when they've thrown tantrums or had terrible attitudes when they didn't get or have something that someone else had that they wanted. Ask God to soften your kids' hearts to envy they may have stored up in there.

9:00 & 11:30

Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask** one of the students to begin the game by finishing the following sentence: “I went to my neighbor's house, and they had one fill in the blank.” (example: swimming pool, puppy, x-box etc.)”
- **Tell** the next person to say, “I went to my neighbor's house, and they had one (*whatever was previously mentioned*) and two fill in the blank.”
- **Continue** going around the circle as many times as possible until someone forgets or names the wrong item.

Wrap Up and Say:

“How many of the things mentioned in our game do you wish you had? (*Pause for response.*) If you've ever been envious of what someone else had, you probably know that the longer you think about it, the more miserable you feel. Jealousy, greed, and envy can rear their ugly heads at any time and make people do crazy things to get what they want. Today we'll hear about someone who said, ‘I went to my neighbor's house and they had a . . .’ Let's go to Large Group and find out how that sentence ends. I can tell you this, though: it's not pretty.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Just For Fun****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- **Ask** students to take turns answering the following questions without speaking.
- **Tell** them to use their heads as giant pens and spell their answers in the air or against a wall where everyone can see.
 - What is your favorite food?
 - Name an animal.
 - How many pairs of shoes are in your closet right now?
 - What is your middle name?
 - Name something red.
 - What is the date of your birthday?
- As time allows, **let** students come up with other questions that have a one-word answer.
- For variety, instead of using their head to write **have** them use their elbows or feet.

Wrap Up and Say:

“You had to use one word. What if life like was like that? What if you could only have one pair of shoes or one change of clothes? What if you could only have one but everyone else could have as many as they want. Might you feel a little jealous or envious?”

“If you’ve ever been envious of what someone else had, you probably know that the longer you think about it, the more miserable you feel. Jealousy, greed, and envy can rear their ugly heads at any time and make people do crazy things to get what they want. Today we’ll hear about someone who said, ‘I went to my neighbor’s house and they had a . . .’ Let’s go to Large Group and find out how that sentence ends. I can tell you this, though: it’s not pretty.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Four wrapped prizes for While Elephant-Type Game
 - One good
 - One humorous
 - Two bad
- Four blindfolds
- Four slips of paper numbered one through four (for choosing the order)
- More or Less secret prize they can trade in

What You Do:

- **More or Less Game:** Each week this month, the Host will lead a game where the person or people playing win a prize. In "Let's Make a Deal" fashion, the winner(s) will then have the option to keep that prize or choose another unknown prize that is either more or less than what he or she won in the first place. Each week, you'll need a prize for the winner and an optional prize for the *More or Less* game.

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
 - 252 Movie

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "We Shine"
- "No Other Love"
- "Glory to God"

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

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

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

CG: 10-second countdown

CG: Theme Loop Slide

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to The Base. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like the World Series or a big sports game in your community, a movie opening, or a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to help them feel like they know what’s happening.

Host transitions to Worship.

HOST: “Hey, everybody! I love that we are all here together. Help me welcome the Power Praise team in this morning.”

WORSHIP

SFX: “We Shine”

CG: “No Other Love”

SFX: “Glory to God”

Power Praise team exits as Host retakes the stage. Host transitions to the opening game.

Opener

HOST: Welcome to the *More or Less* show, where you get the chance to walk away with more . . . or less. In today’s edition, four lucky contestants get the chance to walk away with more . . . or less. Who wants to play?”

Host chooses four volunteers.

“Alright, so here’s how you play. Have you ever played ‘White Elephant’ at a Christmas party? Well, in front of me I have four nicely wrapped presents. In just a moment, you will choose a number. The first person will choose a present and open it quickly. The second person has the choice to then either take a new present or steal what the first person has. Then the third person. Then the fourth person. And the first person gets the last chance to steal. There are no steal backs, meaning you can’t immediately steal back what was just stolen from you. Now sometimes in this game there is a steal limit, but not here! Not that we encourage stealing in general . . . but during this game we will turn a blind eye.”

“Oh, hey, speaking of turning a blind eye, I’m going to need you to put one of these on.”

Host pulls out four blindfolds.

“That’s right—you will not be able to see what you’ve unwrapped, but maybe you can figure it out by feeling or smelling . . . please do not taste! And, audience, please do NOT tell them what it is!”

“Okay, let’s choose numbers and then blindfolds on!”

Play the game until each person has chosen once, and then the first person goes again. Gifts are unwrapped immediately. Play up how they might want what the other person has throughout the game. If a present is stolen, the person from whom it was stolen gets to pick a new present. After everyone is holding a present, have the contestants remove their blindfolds.

“Now that was amazing! Well played, everyone. But we’re not finished yet. Remember, this is *More or Less!*”

Host unveils one last wrapped prize.

“One of you can have the opportunity to trade in your prize for what is inside this mystery box. Now remember, the prize could be MORE, or it could be LESS. What do you want to do . . . would anyone like to trade your prize or keep it?”

Host chooses first person to raise his or her hand. But reveal what is in the box whether or someone chooses to trade or not. Comment on their choice.

“That was great, everyone! You all can take your ‘treasures’ and head back to your seats. Let’s all give [Communicator’s Name] a warm welcome!”

Host exits as Communicator enters.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey everybody! Great to see you today. I loved watching that game. Well played! And thinking about that game, I have a question for you. Have you ever wanted something so badly that . . . well . . . you kind of lost your cool about it? Maybe you begged and pleaded with your parents. Or . . . maybe you even went this far . . . check this out!”

CG: *Temper tantrums in stores video(s)*

“That’s crazy, right? Okay be honest—how many of you have done that—even as a little kid? Come on . . . *(Pause for response)* I thought so. I have, too . . . last week. *(Pause)* No, just kidding, but I have before. I think all of us, whether or not we remember it, threw some temper tantrums that could have gone viral on YouTube.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, all of us have maybe wanted something from a store or something we saw on TV, but how about this? Have you ever wanted something that somebody ELSE has so badly that it totally ruins your day? Or puts you in a bad mood? Or makes you think less about what you already have?”

“Yeah . . . that can happen, right? We see something that somebody else has, and it just drives us wild! And when that happens, we can start to do some pretty crazy things. But I think that deep down we know that’s not the best way to respond. But maybe we’re just not sure how to respond when we want something that badly. When we have issues like that, the best place to turn is the Bible.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “In God’s Word, we can learn from people who did some amazingly great things with their lives, but sometimes we can learn from those who made mistakes, too. That’s what happens in today’s Bible Truth. Let’s watch today’s edition of the So and So Show for more info.

CG: *252 Movie*

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR:

CG: *Key Question Slide*

What can you do when all you can think about is what someone else has? Think about the times when you’ve struggled with wanting what someone else had. How did you respond? How could you have responded? This question could be answered all sorts of ways, and you’ll have a chance to do that in Small Group. Before we head there, though, let’s pray and ask God for some help. Because the truth is that our source of contentment is God. He’s the One who can change our attitudes as we learn to trust Him no matter what. Let’s pray.

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

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

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

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- How should we think about the stuff we have in a way that helps us deal with envy?
- Share your thoughts on the following statements:
 - Comparison is the thief of joy.
 - You can't love others when all you feel is jealousy.
 - God has given us what we have for a reason.
- Is it ever okay to want what someone else has? If so, when is it okay? If not, why?
- What would you say is the best part about learning to be content?
- What can you do to be happy for someone else when he or she has something you want?

10:15**Take a Snapshot****What You Need:** Green paper, white paper**What You Do:**

- **Ask** students to define jealousy. How are jealousy and envy different or the same?

Pro Tip: *Jealousy almost always involves relationships—we become jealous of the attention someone is giving to others instead of us. Envy focuses more on things—a desire for something someone else has. Both can poison our relationships with others and weaken our relationships with God.*

- **Give** each student one green card and one white card.
- **Explain** that you will describe a situation.
 - If they think there is envy or jealousy going on, have them hold up their green cards.
 - If they think it's neither, have them hold up their white cards.
- **Read** the following statements:
 - Your friend gets a new pair of shoes, and you would like a pair just like them.
 - Your brother or sister gets a gift for Christmas that you think is better than yours. You keep wondering, "Why didn't I get a better gift?"
 - Your best friend decided to sit with someone else at lunch and you're mad.
 - Someone takes your place in the starting lineup of the basketball team. You decide to work harder and get your place back.
 - You dislike someone because he or she is a better student than you.
 - You see your friends at the mall, and they didn't invite you. You feel like going up to them and telling them how mad you are.
 - You and your friend are both running for Captain of the Book Club. Your friend gets elected. You are disappointed about it, but you realize there is always next year.
- If there's extra time, **let** the students describe their own "green" and "white" scenarios.

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- **Invite** students to think about how they would finish the following statements:
 - I get most jealous when . . .
 - I sometime get envious of . . .
- If anyone is willing to talk about his or her answer, **allow** that student to do so, but don't require it.
- **Invite** everyone to pray a "F.A. T." prayer.
 - **Forgive:** Talk to God about any wrong attitudes and actions.
 - **Ask:** Invite God's help in specific ways.
 - **Thank:** Tell God what you're grateful for, including HIM.
- **Give** students the option of praying silently or out loud, alone or with a friend.
- **Let them know** that God hears and knows the prayers of their hearts whether spoken or silent, but praying out loud helps others pray with them in specific ways.

What You Say:

"Dear Jesus, forgive us when we have an attitude of jealousy and envy. We ask for Your help to be more grateful for what we have and to not focus on what we wish we had. Thank You for giving us what we need when we need it. In Your name we pray, amen."