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.
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: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

### 9:00 & 11:30

### Red Light, Green Light

• Masking tape

### 10:15

### **Early Arriver**

• No supplies needed

### Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

Bible Presentation in Large Group

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

### 9:00 & 11:30

### Grape Caper

- Several inflated green and purple balloons
- "Grape Caper Questions" Activity Page; one for each small group

### 10:15

### Deal or No Deal

• Prepared brown paper lunch bags; one for every kid

### Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

• No supplies needed

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

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.
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 (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that kids would understand that it's not wrong to like something someone else has or to even want to have one too. The problem is when that desire leads to bad feelings toward the other person, like jealousy or anger. Ask God to help kids discern the difference between those feelings, and pray that He'll give you the wisdom and insight to help kids know what to do next.

### 9:00 & 11:30

### Red Light, Green Light What You Need: Masking tape What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams, Team One and Team Two.
- Provide each of them with a starting point using masking tape.
- Stand at least 20 feet away from the starting lines.
- Explain to your group how to play Red Light, Green Light.
  - You will be the "traffic cop."
  - The traffic cop will tell each team when to go and when to stop.
  - For example, if you tell Team One, "green light," they walk as fast as they can to you.
  - When you say, "red light," they must stop. (This red light/green light switch will need to be pretty quick in order to keep the game going, without kids reaching you immediately.)
  - If you see anyone on the team who did not stop, the entire team must go back to the starting line and begin again.
  - The first team to get all the players to where you are is the winner.
  - Without kids knowing, intentionally make the game easier for one of the teams.
    - You could give one team more time on green, or just not call on the other team as many times.
- For the first two or three rounds, alternate between the team that you are harder on, so that one team doesn't get frustrated too quickly. Then make it a random choice in subsequent rounds, as kids catch on to something not being quite right.

### What You Say:

"It was no fun watching the other team beat you to the finish line, was it? Did anyone ever notice the opposite team having it easier? (Allow time for responses.) I bet you were secretly wishing you were on that team during that round! [Transition] Today in Large Group, we're going to learn about a king who wanted what someone else had."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### 10:15

### Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids to small group and show them where to place their offerings.
- As they're getting settled, ask them if they've ever really wanted something someone else had: a friend's fancy American Girl<sup>®</sup> doll, a neighbor's pool, a classmate's cool art supplies, etc.
- How did that feel? What did they do about those feelings?
- Acknowledge that everyone experiences some envy or jealousy and it doesn't feel very good.
- Play a game about possessions.
  - Start by saying, "I went to my neighbor's house and I saw they had a [cool object]."
  - The next player continues: "I went to my neighbor's house and I saw they had a [first player's object] AND a [desirable object]."
  - Continue around the circle, with each kid listing all the other items the previous kids said and adding something new.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

# Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

# **GETTING READY**

# 1. Opener/Closer

# What You Need:

- Host
- Four contestants: kids or Small Group Leaders
- Four laundry baskets
- Four piles of candy (fruit, not chocolate)
- Stopwatch or phone timer

## What You Do:

• Set up the four baskets in the four corners of your room—or in a smaller area in the center, depending on the size of your space. Dump a pile of (fruit-flavored) candy in each basket.

# 2. Bible Truth

# What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible
- 11 printed Bible Truth Cards
  - . ○ Card #1: "I'll do whatever I want."
  - Card #2: "My grapes are great."
  - Card #3: "Let me have your vineyard."
  - Card #4: "Nope."
  - Card #5: "Who does that guy think he is?"
  - o Card #6: "He said no."
  - Card #7: "I'll get you your vineyard."
  - Card #8: "Accuse him with lies."
  - Card #9: "Naboth cursed the king."
  - Card #10: "I get my vineyard?"
  - Card #11: "Noooooooo!"

# 3. Worship

## What You Need:

• Power Praise Team

### Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

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.
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.

# Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

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

CG: 10-Second Count Down CG: Theme Slide

Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.

CG: Theme Video

### Opener

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. All month we're talking about something that I know will make your life SO much easier, especially if you can start practicing it at your age. It's our Life App, and it's contentment. Check it out.

CG: Contentment Slide CG: Life App Video

"Contentment is deciding to be okay with what you have. It's deciding that you DON'T need to have that thing your friend has or that thing your sibling has, because your stuff is good enough.

CG: Theme TransBack Video

"That can be tough! But don't worry. I've got a fun way for us to get some practice with today's episode of 'More or Less?' Let's have a candy competition. I need four contestants!

SFX: "Botanic Panic" by Kristofer Maddigan

Choose four older kids. Set each of them up with a laundry basket of candy in the four corners of the room.

"Here's the deal. There's four baskets filled with candy, and there's four contestants. When I say, 'Go,' each of you can go to someone else's basket, take three pieces of candy, and bring them back to your basket. If someone else is taking candy from your basket, you can't stop them. You have to let them take it. But you can certainly go to their basket and take some of theirs too!

"You can go as many times as you want to steal other people's candy, but here's the catch. I'll be keeping a timer on my phone, but you won't know when the buzzer will go off. When time runs out, I'll yell, 'STOP!' If you're not at your basket with both hands on it, you lose all of your candy! Oooooohhhh! We'll empty your basket and give everything in it to the other contestants who are safe.

"So the question is: How many times will you run and get candy? Will you be content? Or will you get greedy and try to get as much as you can? Let's find out! We'll play three rounds and see how much candy you end up with at the end. If you do end up with candy at the end, you can take some back to your small group! Let's play round one. Ready? GO!

SFX: Bring up music (for each round)

Use a stopwatch or phone timer to keep time. At the end of 30, 45, or 60 seconds (your choice), yell, "STOP!" Let the timer determine when you stop the game; don't try to trick the contestants.

Play three rounds total. After each round, if any kids aren't at their baskets when time ends, distribute their candy to the others who were safe.

*(After the third round)* "Way to go, contestants! Thanks for playing. If you have any candy in your basket, you can take enough for each person in your small group. Just count up how many people there are, and take that many pieces of candy. *(To audience)* Let's give all our contestants a big hand!

Dismiss contestants to their seats.

"Wanting someone else's stuff can be risky, am I right? [Historyteller's name] is about to break that down today with our Bible Truth."

Historyteller enters. Host gathers the laundry baskets full of candy and exits.

### SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

**HISTORYTELLER:** "That's right! Wow, that game was intense! Sometimes it's the same with me. I get pretty emotional about chocolate. Speaking of getting emotional, I need a little help from you this morning. This particular Bible Truth needs to be told with great drama and big emotions, so I'll be calling on a few of you to act out parts of the Bible Truth.

"Today we're taking a look at a great Truth in 1 Kings. *(Hold up Bible.)* This book is all about—you guessed it—kings who ruled God's people in biblical times. Some of the kings back then were wise, cared about the people, and listened to God. Some kings weren't the greatest rulers and acted pretty foolish. Some others, however, like King Ahab, were just plain awful!

"Ahab was the worst in a line of really bad kings. He spent his time and money building huge buildings, altars, and statues to false gods. He ignored prophets, like Elijah, who tried to get him to listen to what God had to say. Ahab basically just did whatever he wanted. He didn't pay any attention to God or what God wanted Him to do.

"Who wants to read this line for Ahab?

Hand Card #1 ("I'll do whatever I want.") to a volunteer.

(*To volunteer*) "Read it normally. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like you're happy. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like you think you're the most important person in the world. (*Pause for response.*) Yep, that sounds like Ahab. Let's see where this leads."

### TAKE THE FIELD

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Some time later, King Ahab noticed something about his neighbor, Naboth. That's right: Neighbor Naboth. Naboth had a fantastic vineyard. Plentiful vines with plush grapes—it was land that hand been handed down in his family through several generations. Naboth was thankful for his land and his vineyard.

Hand Card #2 ("My grapes are great.") to a volunteer.

(*To volunteer*) "Read it like you're relaxed. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like you're content. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it as if you're delighted! (*Pause for response.*) Yes, Naboth was very happy with his land.

"But King Ahab noticed Naboth's vineyard, and he decided that he wanted it for himself. The vineyard was, after all, close to the palace, and it was the perfect spot for Ahab's new vegetable garden.

"Here's what Ahab told Naboth.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 21:2 (NIrV) and read.

"Let me have your vineyard. It's close to my palace. I want to use it for a vegetable garden. I'll trade you a better vineyard for it. Or, if you prefer, I'll pay you what it is worth.

Hand Card #3 ("Let me have your vineyard.") to a volunteer.

(*To volunteer*) "Read it in a friendly voice. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it in a whiny voice. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it with a ferocious growl! (*Pause for response.*) Yep. King Ahab REALLY wanted that field. But Naboth wouldn't budge. This was the land his family had handed down to him. He told the king . . .

Hand Card #4 ("Nope.") to a volunteer.

(*To volunteer*) "Read it in a normal voice. (*Pause for response.*) Read it again. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it again." (*Pause for response.*)

#### DENIED

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Well, this was something that ol' King Ahab wasn't used to hearing. Who was this guy that was telling him no? Ahab was the king! So Ahab went home. He was ANGRY. He was in a bad mood because of what Naboth had said. He plopped down on his bed and pouted. He didn't even eat anything.

Hand Card #5 ("Who does that guy think he is?") to a volunteer.

(*To volunteer*) "Read it like you're annoyed. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like you're disgusted. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it as if you're furious! (*Pause for response.*) Ahab was still pouting when his wife, Jezebel, came in to check on him. She asked: *Why are you in such a bad mood? Why won't you eat anything?* (*1 Kings 21:5 NIrV*). Ahab told her he had spoken to Naboth and told him he wanted his vineyard, but . . .

Hand Card #6 ("He said no.") to a volunteer.

(*To volunteer*) "Read it in a pouty voice. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like a baby. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like you're throwing a full-on tantrum! (*Pause for response.*) Jezebel took one look at her little diaper-whiny-baby-of-a-king husband and gave him a piece of her mind.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 21:7 (NIrV) and read.

"She said: *Is this how the king of Israel acts? Get up! Eat something! Cheer up.* And then she hatched an evil plan."

### LYING LETTERS

Hand Card #7 ("I'll get you your vineyard.") to a female volunteer.

**HISTORYTELLER:** (*To volunteer*) "Read it like you're plotting. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like a villain. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like you've gone bananas! (*Pause for response.*)

"Here's what Jezebel did. She wrote some letters in Ahab's name. She stamped them with his royal seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and nobles—the rich and powerful people—who lived in the city where Naboth lived.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 21:9-10 (NIrV) and read.

"Here's what the letters said: Announce a day when people are supposed to go without eating. Have Naboth sit in an important place among the people. But put two worthless and evil men in seats across from him. Have them bring charges that he has cursed God and the king.

"Jezebel told them to take Naboth out of the city and throw stones at him. Yikes. I told you it was an evil plan!

Hand Card #8 ("Accuse him with lies.") to a female volunteer.

(To volunteer) "Read it in an evil voice. (Pause for response.) Now read it like you're mad. (Pause for response.) Now read it with a maniacal laugh! (Pause for response.)

"So can you guess what happened? The elders and nobles actually did what she asked. They did everything she wrote down. They had Naboth sit in an important place among the people. Then two men sat across from him and falsely accused him of cursing God and cursing the king.

Hand Card #9 ("Naboth cursed the king.") to two volunteers, and have them read it simultaneously.

(*To volunteers*) "Read it like you're telling a secret. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like you're accusing. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like you're shouting it to a huge crowd! (*Pause for response.*)

"No one was there to defend Naboth, so the leaders carried out Jezebel's terrible plan. Afterward, the people sent a message back to Jezebel that Naboth was dead. Meanwhile, King Ahab was still pouting in his bed. Jezebel went into his room and yelled at him to get up and take over Naboth's land. King Ahab sat up.

Hand Card #10 ("I get my vineyard?") to a volunteer.

(*To volunteer*) "Read it like you're sleepy. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it as if you're excited. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it like you've won a cruise vacation!" (*Pause for response.*)

#### WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

**HISTORYTELLER:** "If you remember, way back at the beginning of this Bible Truth I mentioned a man of God named Elijah. Elijah was a prophet, which means it was his job to give people messages from God. God told Elijah to go find Ahab in Naboth's vineyard. God knew exactly what Ahab and Jezebel had done. Elijah told Ahab that God was going to send some BIG trouble his way.

"When King Ahab heard this, he tore his kingly clothes into pieces. He put on rough, dirty clothing that people wear when they're sad. He didn't eat. He slept in his clothes. And he moped around his palace looking sad.

Hand Card #11 ("Noooooooo!") to a volunteer.

(*To volunteer*) "Read it like you're sad. (*Pause for response.*) Now read it in slow motion. (*Pause response.*) Now read it like you're falling off a cliff! (*Pause for response.*)

"Let's think about this for a minute. I know none of you have been through exactly what King Ahab went through. You probably haven't wanted to take over someone's vineyard so you could plant some veggies. But let's be honest. Have you ever wanted something that someone else had?

"Ahab wanted something that wasn't his, and it drove him crazy. He wanted it so badly that he threw a fit and pouted. Then, when he finally got what he wanted, the thing he wanted so badly didn't even make him happy. It caused him all kinds of trouble. He was jealous and miserable before he had Naboth's vineyard, and he was even worse afterward!

"Ahab learned this the hard way.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

### [Bottom Line] "Wanting what others have can make you miserable.

"Instead of wanting what other people have, look at what God has given you. Instead of thinking about all the things you DON'T have, thank God for what you DO have. He wants you to **[Basic Truth] trust Him no matter what** and focus on what He's already given you.

"We need God's help to do that, for sure. Let's pray right now and ask Him to help us."

#### CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

#### Pray

**HISTORYTELLER:** "God, sometimes we want what others have. Sometimes we get jealous. Please help us not to look at what we don't have, but to be thankful for what we do have. Help us to focus on what's important—on You, on our friends, on our families, and on how to make those relationships the best they can be. Please teach us how to be happy for someone who has what we don't. Please show us how to love others without jealousy getting in the way. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.

"If you have an offering with you today, you can bring that on up now."

"Go ahead and stand up, because it's time to sing and worship God together. Let's tell Him how thankful we are for all He's given us!"

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship SFX: "We Shine"

SFX: "No Other Love"

SFX: "Glory to God"

Power Praise exits as Host enters.

#### Closer

**HOST:** "Have you ever wanted something that someone else had? Yep. Me too. It happens. We get jealous. We forget to be content with our stuff. We want other people's stuff.

"Maybe a friend has a new iPad<sup>®</sup> and you don't. Maybe someone grabs the better basketball at recess. Even in your own house, maybe your brother grabs the best pieces of pizza before you have a chance to get any—you know, the ones with all the toppings. Those things can make you super jealous, right? If you're not careful, you can drive yourself crazy wishing you had what THEY had. You forget to notice all the good things that are right in front of you.

#### CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "Wanting what others have can make you miserable.

"Don't let what happened to Ahab happen to you. He was miserable before he got Naboth's vineyard, and he was totally miserable after that, too.

"Remember to be thankful not just for the STUFF you have, but for the people in your life, too. People are always more important than things. Your relationships with other people—with your friends, with your family, with God—are WAY more important than stuff.

"Any time you start to feel jealous—any time you're finding it hard to be content—try this. Look for ways to help other people. Look for ways to make them happy. It feels so good to lend a hand, and you'll forget all about those things you wanted before.

"What else can you do when you start to feel jealous of other people's stuff? I bet you have some great ideas. That's what you get to talk about back in Small Group!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit. CG: Theme Loop Video

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.
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.

# Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

### 9:00 & 11:30

### **Grape Caper**

What You Need: Several green and purple balloons, "Grape Caper Questions" Activity Page What You Do:

- Set the balloon "grapes" in the center of the room.
- Divide your group into two teams and line each team up, shoulder to shoulder, on either side of the grapes.
- Instruct kids to count themselves off, giving each kid on each team a number. (Teams can have the same numbers.)
- To play the game, call out a number for each team. (e.g., Team One, number three; Team Two, number two)
- The kids with those numbers will run to the grapes and try to carry as many as possible back to their team.
- Whichever team has the most grapes answers that many questions from the Grape Caper Questions Page. (The whole team, not just the kid who carried the grapes, may answer.)
- Read the questions in any order from the page.
- Continue the game until all the questions have been answered.
- Set the balloons aside where they won't be a distraction.

## What You Say:

"This Grape Caper was a smashing success! In our Bible Truth, King Ahab discovered that **[Bottom Line] wanting what others have can make you miserable.** He was so upset when he couldn't have Naboth's vineyard, but what happened when he got it? (Allow for answers.) The way that he got the vineyard meant that he was much worse off than before!

"Jealousy—or being consumed by wanting what others have—will ruin your life. You might think that desperately wanting a giant TV like your neighbors have would inspire you to work really hard and get the money to buy one, but it doesn't. It makes you dislike your neighbors and look for ways to make them feel bad. It sets you in competition with others instead of in relationship. You're always looking for ways to have the best and the most of everything even if it hurts other people. Just look at King Ahab. Jealousy poisons your heart.

"So the next time you feel jealousy creeping up on you, remember that **[Bottom Line] wanting what** others have can make you miserable. What are some things you can do when you start to feel jealous?" (Allow for discussion. Suggest things like: appreciating what you have, doing something kind for someone else, praying, talking to a trusted grownup about it, switching your focus to relationship instead of stuff, etc.

### 10:15

Deal or No Deal

### What You Need: Prepared brown paper bags

### What You Do:

- Encourage your group to sit in a circle.
- Provide every kid with a brown paper bag.
- Tell kids that inside their bags are some pictures of things. Some pictures are of lots of money or a great toy, and others are of just a little bit of money or random objects.
- Randomly call on a kid from the group and ask if they would like to keep their bag or trade with someone else.
- The kid must then say, "Deal," or, "No deal." If they choose "No deal," they choose someone else to switch with and then exchange their bag with the other person.
- Both kids then open their bags and show everyone the picture inside.
- If the kid you called on chooses to keep her own bag, she must open it and show everyone what was inside.
- Continue until every kid has had a turn to choose "Deal" or "No deal."

### What You Say:

"How many of you wish you would have kept your bag instead of trading with someone else? (Allow time for responses.) There were some great trades made, but wanting more didn't always leave you with the best option. This month as we learn about contentment, it's important to realize the good in what we have so we don't end up disappointed in the end. Remember, **[Bottom Line] wanting what others have can make you miserable**, so let's learn to be okay with what's right in front of us!"

## All Service Times

## Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)

What You Need: No supplies needed

### What You Do:

• Explain that it's important to thank God for everything He gives and ask Him to help you stay content, even when you are wanting more.

### What You Say:

"God, you are so good! I can't even begin to thank You enough for all You do for me. I know there are times when I really want something and it sort of becomes what I'm focused on. I know there are times when I look at my friends or neighbors and I want what they have. I'm asking You today to help me have a content heart in these times. I ask that my heart would be so full of thanksgiving and that I will trust You will always provide for my needs. *[Bottom Line]* Wanting what others have can make you miserable, so I know You will help me with this. In Jesus' name, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, have each kid show their parent their brown paper bag. Ask them to tell their parents whether they made a good or bad trade. Remind them that no matter what they ended up with, *[Bottom Line]* wanting what others have can make you miserable and we can be content with what we have.

# **GRAPE CAPER QUESTIONS**

- Who owned the vineyard at the start of the story? (Naboth)
- Why was King Ahab so mad? (Naboth wouldn't give up his vineyard)
- What did King Ahab do when he got mad? (refused to eat)
- What was the queen's name? (Jezebel)
- What kind of fruit does a vineyard grow? (grapes)
- True or False: The Queen hatched a plan to get the vineyard. (true)
- True or False: Naboth was guilty of treason and cattle rustling. (false)
- True or False: King Ahab dressed up like a ninja and stole the vineyard himself. *(false)*
- Who was the prophet who spoke to King Ahab? (Elijah)
- True or False: The prophet had comforting news for Ahab. (false)
- True or False: the prophet told Ahab his greed would lead to his doom. (true)
- Who wrote the letters instructing the town leaders to frame Naboth? (Jezebel)
- True or False: The vineyard was brand new and Naboth just bought it last week. *(false)*
- True or False: Naboth was attached to the vineyard as it had been in his family a long time. *(true)*
- True or False: This was a magic vineyard that grew Skittles® and that's why the king wanted it. *(false)*
- True or False: The king was planning on making a reality show of renovating the vineyard. *(false)*
- True or False: The king had no real reason to want the vineyard, except that he wanted it for himself. *(true)*
- Did the king and queen worship the one true God? (no)
- Did the king and queen put their kingdom and people first before themselves? *(no)*
- Choose one word to describe the king: A) gentle; **B) greedy;** C) wise.
- Choose one word to describe the queen: A) kind; B) thoughtful; C) cruel.
- Choose one word to describe the prophet: A) jealous ; **B) truthful;** C) bearded.