

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.

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

Head, Shoulders, Knees, Grape

- Inflated green and purple balloons; one for every two kids

Red Light, Green Light

- Masking tape

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Pick a Grape

- Grapes cut in half; at least 12 half pieces for each kid
- Large bowls for the grapes; one for every three-to-five kids
- Small disposable bowls; one for each kid
- Antibacterial wipes
- Bible

More Isn't Always Better

- "Memory Verse Phrases 1" and "Memory Verse Phrases 2" card sets; one of each set for each small group

Prayer

- No supplies needed

Dismiss

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

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

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.

Head, Shoulders, Knees, Grape

What You Need: Balloons

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to pair up and face their partners.
- Place a balloon on the floor between each pair.
- Tell kids that you're going to shout out either, "head," "shoulders," "knees," or "grape."
- Whenever you shout out a word, kids should touch their own head, shoulders, or knees.
- When you shout, "Grape," they should try to grab the "grape" (balloon/ball/toy grapes) before their partner does.
- Call out a series of the three body parts, such as: "Head, knees, shoulders, knees, head, shoulders, head, knees, head, GRAPE!"
- The kids who don't grab the grape sit down.
- The kids who grabbed the grape pair up with someone else who is still standing and play again.
- Continue playing until one kid is left standing.
- If you have time, start all over again.

What You Say:

"That game was crazy fun! And it makes me think there just might be something about grapes in our Bible Truth today **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group and find out!**"

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.**”

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Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Shiny suit jacket
- Prop game show microphone
- Three kid contestants from the same small group
- Four wrapped banker's boxes with separately wrapped lids
- Three different prizes that could be shared with an entire small group One mystery prize that could be shared with an entire small group (also a good prize this time around)
- Table

What You Do:

- Place the prizes into the boxes. Place the three game boxes on the table and the Mystery Box close by. *NOTE: Save the boxes and unused prizes so you can use them next week as well.*

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible
- Four kids from different small groups (three boys; one girl)
- Their four Small Group Leaders
- Prop box containing:
 - Eight scrunchies
 - 16 pieces of yarn (30 inches each)
 - Four giant hanging nametags: King Ahab, Jezebel, Naboth, and Elijah
 - For King Ahab: fake beard, king's crown
 - For Jezebel: female robe, letter (envelope that says "To: Leaders. From: King Ahab.")
 - For Naboth: fake beard, fake bunch of grapes
 - For Elijah: fake beard, megaphone

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

CG: 10 Second count down

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

CG: Theme Video

Opener

HOST: "Hey, guys and girls! I am so excited to be here today. Are you? Well, I hope so, because I'm planning on having a TON of fun this morning!

"Today, we're talking about contentment!

CG: Contentment Slide

CG: Life App Video

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

CG: Theme TransBack Video

"That can be tough, because we WANT so many things! It's hard to be content when things don't go our way. It's hard to be content when we wish we had more stuff. That's why we have to LEARN to be content! Let's practice our contentment by playing a little game we like to call 'More or Less?'

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 once again to 'More or Less?' the fantastic game show where you can win fabulous prizes for yourself and your friends!

"Let me get three contestants from the same small group. Who wants to play?"

Bring up three kids from the same small group. Ask their names if you don't already know them.

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

Walk to the table with the three prize boxes.

“Let me explain how this game works. First, you’ll choose one of these three prizes. Then you’ll have to decide if you want to keep that prize or trade it for whatever’s in the Mystery Box, which could be ‘More or Less’ amazing. It could be something awesome or not so awesome. But no matter what, you’ve got to be content with whatever you get!

“Contestants, are you ready to begin? *(Pause for response.)* Great. Choose a prize and open it!

The three contestants work together to choose one of the three boxes and open it.

“Look at that! What a great prize for you and your small group!

“But now you’ve got to choose. Are you going to be content with that prize? Or would you like to trade for whatever’s in the Mystery Box?”

Bring out the Mystery Box. Get the crowd to weigh in on what the contestants should do. Comment on whatever they decide (“They’ve decided to be okay with what they have!” or “Let’s see what’s in the Mystery Box!”). All the items this week (including what’s in the Mystery Box) should be good prizes, so the kids feel like winners no matter what.

(To audience) “All right. They’ve made their choice. *(To contestants)* Contestants, do you think you can be okay with what you have? *(Pause for response.)* Great! Let’s give them a big hand.

Dismiss the two contestants to their seats.

“We’ve got one more round of ‘More or Less?’ to play next week. But right now it’s time for us to welcome [Historyteller’s Name].

Historyteller exits as Host enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hi, my friends! I’ve got a really great Truth from the Bible *(hold up Bible)* to share with you today. It’s about someone who had to decide if he could be content—if he could be okay with what he had. Let’s get started, shall we?”

“First of all, I need a volunteer to play King Ahab. Raise your hand if you’d like to act in our Bible Truth.

Choose an older kid who you know is confident enough to play a “bad guy” without getting upset. (Make sure it’s a kid

with his hand raised.)

(To kid) “Can you also bring your Small Group Leader up with you?”

The kid brings his Leader as he comes up to the stage. Put the “King Ahab” nametag on the kid. Give him the fake beard and crown to wear, too.

“Fantastic! Thousands of years ago, King Ahab was the ruler of God’s people. Now, some of the kings who ruled God’s people were good kings. They were kind and fair. But some kings were not so good. They did foolish things and turned away from God. Unfortunately, King Ahab was one of those bad kings.

“Now, we all know that [kid’s name] is NOT a terrible king. In fact, he isn’t terrible at all. We know that [kid’s name] is a really great friend who likes to be kind. But just for a few minutes today—just for our Bible Truth—we’re going to pretend that [kid’s name] is the terrible King Ahab. Okay?”

“Next we’ll need a few more actors for our Bible Truth. I’ll need someone to be Jezebel, someone to be Naboth, and someone to be Elijah. Raise your hand if you want to be in the Bible Truth. If I pick you, bring your Small Group Leader up with you too.

Choose three kid volunteers (all from different small groups) and have each of them bring their Small Group Leader with them. Put the “Jezebel,” “Naboth,” and “Elijah” nametags on the kids and give them robes or fake beards to wear.

“Let’s all be sure to remember that these good friends who are helping us out today are really just pretending to be the characters in our Bible Truth.

“Here’s how this will go. *(To the kids on stage)* Kids, you are actually going to be marionette-type puppets today. Your Small Group Leaders are going to help you get your strings on so they can help you act out the Bible Truth.

Hand out the scrunchies with strings attached. Each kid gets two (one for each wrist).

“Everybody ready? Let’s begin.”

THE GREEDY KING

HISTORYTELLER: “King Ahab was a very rich and powerful man. He could walk all around his kingdom and see all that belonged to him.

Pause to make sure King Ahab’s Leader is walking him around the stage with the puppet strings.

“He walked back and forth . . . back and forth . . . back and forth, to look at everything that was his. One day, King Ahab spotted a beautiful vineyard not far from his house. He could see that Naboth owned this land.

Hand the fake grapes to Naboth.

“King Ahab walked over to the vineyard to talk to Naboth, because he wanted Naboth’s land. He pointed to the vineyard and told Naboth that he wanted it so he could turn it into a vegetable garden.

If needed, pause the Bible Truth to make sure the Leaders are directing their puppets appropriately.

“Naboth shook his head no. King Ahab offered to trade a better vineyard for Naboth’s vineyard. Naboth shook his head no. King Ahab offered to buy the vineyard from Naboth. Naboth shook his head no. Naboth explained that the land had been in his family for years and years, and it was very special to him. Naboth would not part with the land of his ancestors. King Ahab left to go back to his palace, but he was definitely not happy.”

TEMPER TANTRUM

HISTORYTELLER: “King Ahab went home. He was as mad as a mule chewing on bumblebees!

(To audience) “Raise your hand if you’ve ever seen your younger sister or brother throw a temper tantrum. Well, King Ahab was so mad that HE actually threw a temper tantrum. He threw himself on the bed, refused to get up, and refused to eat anything!

Continue pausing while the puppets act out the Bible Truth.

“It wasn’t long before the king’s wife, Jezebel, came to check on him. *Why are you in such a bad mood?* she asked (*1 Kings 21:5 NIV*). King Ahab told her about how he had seen Naboth’s vineyard and tried to get it, but Naboth kept saying no. King Ahab was a mess.

“Jezebel basically told King Ahab to pull himself together! Listen to what she said.

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

“Is this how the king of Israel acts? Get up! Eat something! Cheer up. I’ll get you the vineyard of Naboth from Jezreel” (NIV).

THE EVIL QUEEN

HISTORYTELLER: “Jezebel came up with an evil plan to get Naboth’s vineyard and give it to King Ahab.

Hand the letter to Jezebel.

“She wrote letters to the leaders in Naboth’s town, asking them to make Naboth sit in an important place. In the letter, she asked that two evil men sit nearby and tell lies about Naboth. Then, when

everyone heard the terrible lies about Naboth, the leaders should take Naboth outside the city and throw stones at him. Yikes!

“Jezebel wrote all of these things in the letter, and then she didn’t sign her name. She signed the king’s name! She knew that if these men thought the king was asking them to do something, they would do it.

“She sent the letter and, sadly, everything happened just as she wanted it to. Now that Naboth had died, King Ahab could have the vineyard. Isn’t that awful?”

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Well, let me tell you what happened right after King Ahab took over Naboth’s vineyard. King Ahab had a very special visitor: Elijah.

Hand the megaphone to Elijah.

“Elijah was a man of God. He was a prophet, which means God would use him to deliver important messages to people. Elijah came to visit King Ahab.

Pause to get Elijah’s Leader to raise Elijah’s arm so the megaphone is by his mouth.

“Elijah told King Ahab that what he had done was wrong. He told King Ahab that he would suffer great harm because of what he had done.

“Suddenly, King Ahab didn’t feel like the vineyard was a prize. It was more like a trap! He had finally gotten what he wanted, but it didn’t make him happy. What he thought would be a reward was much more like a curse. King Ahab refused to eat because he felt so terrible for what he had done and what had happened.

“Let’s give our actors a big hand! *(To kids and Leaders)* You all can head back to your seats.

Take the props from the kids as they and their Leaders go back to their seats.

“That’s a pretty wild Bible Truth. And it reminds us of something really important.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

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

“I think that was definitely what happened to King Ahab, don’t you?”

“A lot of times WE wish we had what other people have. You might not want your neighbor’s vineyard, but you might wish you had your friends’ toys, their clothes, or even their talents. It’s so important for us to choose to be content with what we have, because **[Bottom Line] wanting what others have can make you miserable.**

“We need God’s help to choose contentment, don’t you think? Let’s pray about that right now.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, thank You for the Bible Truth of King Ahab, Jezebel, Naboth, and Elijah. Thank You for all of the important things we can learn from it. Help us to learn to be content with the things that You’ve given us, instead of always wanting what someone else has. Help us to be thankful. Help us choose to be okay with what we have. We love You, and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

“Now, up on your feet and give some mad respect to our Power Praise team!”

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship

SFX: “We Shine”

SFX: “No Other Love”

SFX: “Glory to God”

Host enters as Power Praise Team exits.

Closer

HOST: “Sometimes we feel jealous and we want what someone else has. Have you ever felt that way? I definitely have. King Ahab convinced himself that what he wanted was more important than everything else—even someone else’s life! But we know that people are more important than things. If wanting stuff starts to hurt others or hurt you, it’s definitely not okay.

“So what should you do when your best friend gets that new video game you’ve been wanting for months, or when a girl from your class gets to miss a whole week of school to go on a cruise vacation like you’ve always dreamed of? I think it might help to remember this.

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

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

“When you start to feel jealous, I think the very best thing you can do in those situations is to talk to God. Ask Him to help you be happy for the other person, and ask Him to help you be content with what you have.

“God wants us to love people the way He loves people. But we can’t love others when all we feel is jealousy and anger. God can help us kick out those bad feelings (*kick the air*) and He’ll fill us with His peace, joy, and contentment instead. We can choose to focus on THOSE things as we **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what.**

“Remember what Jesus said in our memory verse?”

CG: *Blank Memory Verse Slide*

CG: *Memory Verse Slide*

“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)*

“We need to be on our guard so we can be content with what we have instead of being miserable about what we DON’T have!

“You’ll get to talk about that some more back in Small Group. In fact, you can head that way right now.”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

CG: Theme Loop Video

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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

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

More Isn't Always Better

What You Need: "Memory Verse Phrases 1" and "Memory Verse Phrases 2" cards sets

What You Do:

- Set the two separate piles of phrases at one end of your space.
- Divide the kids into two teams, and guide the teams to stand across your space from the two piles.
- On your "Go," kids take turns running to the piles to pick up a piece, bring it back, and tag the next person, who will get the next piece, and so on.
- As soon as a team has all their phrases, they need to put the verse in order.
- Unless something gets wonky, the team with "Memory Verse Phrases 1" should easily win the game.
- Exuberantly congratulate the winning team, going over the top to celebrate their "victory."
- The other team will likely protest, because their task was harder since they had more cards.

What You Say:

"Was that game fair? Why or why not? (*Pause for responses.*) Sometimes we think that having more and more things will make us content, but this game shows us that having more isn't always the best. The team that had more pieces didn't have a fair chance at winning the game. Let's read the verse and see what it says about having more and more things. (*Read the verse aloud. Encourage kids to read along.*)

"Last week we talked about being on your guard. And this week we know we should be on our guard against wanting more and more things. Let's remember this game the next time we think having more and more things will make us content. Because we're learning today that wanting more and more things and **[Bottom Line]** wanting what others have can make you miserable instead of content."

[Make It Personal] (*Tell kids about a time when wanting what someone else had made you unhappy. Maybe you wanted a nice big house like your friend or adult sibling had. Or maybe you wanted to have a better, more fun job. Tell kids what you did to help become content with the situation.*)

Pick a Grape

What You Need: Large bowls of grapes, small bowls, antibacterial wipes, Bible

What You Do:

- Place the bowls of grapes where each kid can reach a bowl.
- Instruct kids to thoroughly clean their hands with a wipe.
- Give each kid a small bowl.
- Tell kids you will be reading the Bible Truth. Each time they hear the word “vineyard,” they should pick a grape from the bowl and put it into their bowl.
- Read 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27. Make sure to pause after you say “vineyard” so kids have time to grab a grape.

Note: You might want to skip over the part about the manner in which Naboth died. And you may also want to omit the part in verse 19 about the dogs licking up the blood and instead just say that Ahab will die in the same place Naboth did.

- Then explain that you’ll ask them some questions.
- After each question is answered correctly, kids will toss a grape into their mouth. They can do it however they wish.
- Ask the following questions:
 - Who owned the vineyard? (*Naboth*)
 - Who wanted to own the vineyard? (*Ahab*)
 - Why wouldn’t Naboth give Ahab the vineyard? (*It had been in his family a long time*)
 - Who came up with the plan to get the vineyard from Naboth? (*Jezebel*)
 - Why was her plan a bad one? (*She wanted people to lie so Naboth would die*)
 - Who gave Ahab a message from God? (*Elijah*)
 - What did Elijah say would happen to Ahab? (*He would suffer great harm*)
 - How did Ahab respond to Elijah’s message? (*He was sad and didn’t eat*)
 - When you want what someone else has, how does that make you feel? (*Let a couple different kids answer this question, since there can be multiple answers.*)
 - What should you do when you want what someone else has? (*Pray; talk to God*)
 - Finish today’s Bottom Line: Wanting what others have can make you _____.

What You Say:

“Ahab learned that **[Bottom Line]** wanting what others have can make you miserable, didn’t he? He and Jezebel did a really terrible thing in order to get what Ahab wanted. And he paid the price for being discontent. When we want what others have, we need to remember to not be like Ahab. We don’t want to do bad things to get the things we want because we’re not content and okay with what we already have. Let’s remember to talk to God whenever we don’t feel content. He’ll always help us when we really want to **[Basic Truth]** make the wise choice and choose contentment.”

Pray and Dismiss

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.