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Basics

...AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM  
AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH  
GOD AND MAN. *Luke 2:52*

virtue:

CONTENTMENT

deciding to be  
happy with what  
you've got.

November 10 & 11, 2007

K-2

**memory verse:**

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. *Philippians 4:11b-12a NIV*

**Bottom Line:** Wanting what other people have can get you in trouble.

**Bible Story:** King Ahab wants Naboth's vineyard • *1 Kings 21*

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**BIBLE BLOG** (please spend 7-10 minutes on this section)

*We're still working on it...thanks for your patience*

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## LIFE APPLICATION

### **ACTIVITY: “Needs vs. Wants Bingo”**

**SUPPLIES:** “Needs vs. Wants Bingo cards”, green markers, green gum or candy, paper with the list on it: *hug, food, house, bed, clothes*, and another list with: *stuffed animals, computer games, movies, toys, video games, bikes, skateboards*

Pass out the bingo cards and markers. Hold up the lists you made, explaining that the first person to get five in a row of these pictures that calls out “Bingo” wins (a piece of gum or candy). A row can go across, up and down, and diagonally. Make sure kids understand how to play, then call out different pictures from your 2 lists (*stuffed animals, house, hugs, computer games, movies, toys, video games, bikes, skateboards, beds, clothing*), giving the kids time to place a marker on that picture. Hold up the lists where all players can see it, as a reminder. Play the game several times so several kids can win.

*Note: The items on the first list represent things we need, like sleep (represented by picture of bed), clothing, food, shelter (picture of house), and love (two kids hugging). The items on the second list represent things we want, like (Tip: Someone might point out that we need shoes, but we don't need the most popular sneakers of the moment.)*

### **SMALL GROUP LEADER: ASK**

- **What's the difference between a want and a need?** (*Pause for answers.*)
- **There are a lot of things we want but don't really need. Did you notice that the only way you could win bingo was to get a full line of needs?**
- **Take a minute to think about some things you want, and things you need.**
- **What are some things on you want?** (*Pause for answers.*)
- **What are some things on you need?** (*Pause for answers.*)
- **Sometimes we may get our wants mixed up with our needs. We might think we need the most expensive pair of shoes when what we really need is just a good pair of shoes. We are so bombarded by television and magazine ads that we can't get our minds off wanting the most popular brands. When our friends get things we want but don't have, we might get envious. Our envy can get in the way of our friendship. Sometimes we might even consider taking something that doesn't belong to us because we want it so badly.**
- **What might happen if we were to get caught taking something that doesn't belong to us?** (*Pause for answers.*)
- **What would happen to us on the inside if we took something, even if we didn't get caught?** (*Pause for answers.*)
- **Wanting what other people have can get you in trouble.”**

**SMALL GROUP LEADER:** Tell of a time when you wanted something so badly that it got you in trouble or interfered with a relationship.

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## REVIEW THE BIBLE LESSON

**ACTIVITY:** The Best Balloon

**SUPPLIES:** prepared gift bags

Give each child a large gift bag. Once everyone has a bag, instruct kids to open their bags. Explain that everyone should find a green balloon, some markers, and one cool art item that's unique to their bag. Instruct kids to decorate their balloon using only the items inside their own bag. When kids are finished, store their balloons back in their gift bags so they can take them home and so balloons don't float away before the end of the session.

While the kids decorate their balloons, review the Bible lesson. Lead kids to tell the sequence of events to you by asking questions like: What happened next? What happened at the end?

You can get them started...

- Remember how King Ahab wanted what Naboth [NAY bahth] had, but wanting Naboth's vineyard got the king in trouble.
- Ahab was not content with what he had.
- He was envious of Naboth's vineyard, so his wife, Jezebel, devised a plan to get the vineyard
- In the end, Naboth was dead and God was very angry with Ahab

**SMALL GROUP LEADER:** "When we were decorating the balloons, some of you may have wanted a cool item you saw in someone else's bag. Did you want that item before you saw it? (*No, of course not*) Wanting what other people have can get you in trouble. The Bible gives us a pretty clear example of how wanting what other people have can get you into trouble.

- Have you ever wanted something that wasn't yours so badly that you tried to come up with a plan to get it?
  - Have you ever wanted something your friend had so badly that you had trouble being friends with them?
  - Wanting what other people have can get you in trouble. (1) Contentment is deciding to be happy with what you have. (2) God is the Creator of contentment. (3) God wants us to be content. (4) When we are content, we can focus on things that really matter, such as our relationship with God, our families, and our friends."
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## MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

### Memory Verse Basketball

Open your Bibles and read the current memory verse. Say the verse aloud with the entire group several times.

Divide your group into two teams. Line up one team up with the Nerf basketball hoop and basketball. Line up the other team up with a bucket and a wadded up piece of paper as a ball. Before handing each child the ball (either the Nerf™ basketball or the wadded up piece of paper) he or she is required to say the current bible memory verse. If the child repeats the verse correctly, he or she can shoot the basketball. If the child fails to repeat the verse correctly, he or she goes to the end of the line.

Give each child a few chances to try the verse. Keep track of how many baskets each team has scored.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER:** Those of you who had the bucket and wadded up paper ball, how did you feel when the other team got the nice hoop and ball? Were you able to concentrate on your memory verse? Or were you too worried about why they got the better hoop?

**Wanting what other people have can get you in trouble. Every situation gives you a chance to decide to be happy with what you've got or to want what other people have. When you want what others have, it can make you feel miserable and get you in trouble. Whether you got the nice hoop and ball or not, you have to decide how you feel. Are you going to be mad or happy? You have to choose whether you're going to be mad or have a nice day anyway and be content. You can get in trouble by being grumpy, or you can decide to be happy with what you've got. What are you going to choose to do right now?**  
*(Wait for responses.)*

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## PRAYER

SUPPLIES: "Prayer Reminders" (see "k-2 attachments" on the web)

Place the prayer reminders in the center of your group. Pass the basket around the circle, pausing for kids to pray a sentence prayer for the category named on one of the cards. Help kids read the cards, each of which lists something they need that God has provided. Prompt them to thank God for that category or ask for God's help in that situation. For instance, a child might pick a card that reads "family." The child could thank God for a particular family member or ask God to help a family member find a job or get well.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER:** "Wanting what other people have can get you in trouble, but praying for these people or situations can be a great help. Wanting your friend's new bike can get you in trouble. Praying for your friend to be safe on his bike can help you decide to be happy with what you've got—a terrific friend."