LESSON 17 "CONTENTMENT" (page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Acts 16:16-34 (page 1210)

CHARACTER WORD

<u>Contentment</u> – Being happy with what I have

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I can be content with Jesus.

MEMORY LINK

Colossians 3:15a

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts." (KBC Study Bible pg. 1302)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

None

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: Bouncing ball Option 2: None

BIBLE CONNECTION

Teaching picture (resources)

SURF TEAM LEADER

Memory Link cards, index cards, pens, Hang 10 pages

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: Hula hoops
Option 2: Styrofoam cups

Paul & Silas Worship in Prison

WHAT'S THE POINT?

<u>Contentment</u> is defined as being happy with what you have. We often want what we don't have or what we see other people getting. Discontentment is a disease of the heart running rampant, even among the most faithful believers in Christ. Why are we so easily discontented? Are we too busy focusing on our circumstances and not on God? Are we distracted by surroundings that are ungodly?

In today's passage, Paul and Silas were imprisoned for spreading the gospel. They had been stripped and beaten severely. Instead of complaining or lamenting, the two men began to sing praises to their God. It's probably safe to say they didn't feel like praising the Lord, but they chose to have a grateful heart.

It's interesting to see that their attitude about their circumstances not only pleased God, it impacted other people – it freed them. We can become so caught up in our attitude of discontentment that it affects the people in our paths. It could even keep them from wanting to know Christ. Do you think the jailer would have been attracted to a relationship with Christ if he sensed a bitter heart in Paul and Silas?

GET CONNECTED

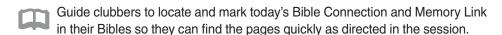


10-15 Minutes – Building relationships in Surf Teams; introducing today's lesson

No supplies needed

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the kids in your surf team and to introduce today's lesson.

- What are you grateful for today?
- What do you think the difference is between needing something and wanting something?
- The character word today is <u>contentment</u>. What do you think it means to be content?
- Share a time when you experienced contentment and thankfulness.



Worship Tip

When you transition to worship time, consider making a transitional statement to help the kids gain the proper perspective. Communicate the importance of worship and encourage the kids to focus on God. Encourage the kids to think about the words they are singing. One of the best ways to communicate the importance of worship is to model it. Encourage all of your leaders to participate and model what worship looks like.

MEMORY LINK



Teaching a Bible verse to clubbers; helping them to memorize the verse

No supplies needed

Focus on the Bible

The Bible is divided into two main sections. What are they? (The Old Testament and New Testament.) The memory link for today comes from the New Testament, in a book called Colossians. This book was written by Paul, the person in the Bible story today. Paul wrote this book as a letter to the people he knew in a town called Colossae. He wanted to encourage these people and remind them that Jesus was their Savior. He also wanted the people to focus on Jesus and not worry about what other people thought or said. Paul was encouraging the Colossians to be content.

Focus on Today's Memory Link

Today's memory link is from Colossians 3:15a, which says "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts." This is in the third chapter of Colossians, and it's the 15th verse in that chapter. It has an "a" next to it because that denotes it is the first part of the verse. Peace and contentment are similar in a few ways. In order to be content, you must have peace. Letting God's peace into your life will give you strength in times of trial; give you comfort in times of sadness; give you hope in times of darkness. Having peace begins with knowing and believing God is in control.

Option 1 - WORD BOUNCE

Bouncing ball

Bounce a ball to a child on your surf team as you say the first two words of the memory link. Ask that child to bounce the ball to another child while saying the next word of the verse. Continue until the all the words to the verse and reference have been repeated. Play multiple rounds, allowing all kids to participate.

Option 2 - TELEPHONE

No supplies needed

Whisper the first half of the verse into the ear of the child next to you. Encourage that child to whisper it to the next person and so on. When the phrase comes back to you, say it out loud. Then whisper the second half of the verse to the child next to you to start the telephone again. When the phrase comes back to you, say it out loud. Then ask the kids to say the whole verse aloud with you. Repeat, allowing each child to start the telephone.

LESSON 17 "CONTENTMENT" (page 2)

(page 2)

Colossians 3:15a

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts." (KBC Study Bible pg. 1302)

Teaching Tip

When you lead a prayer during Beach Club, you are also teaching the kids how to pray. Let the words you say to God teach the kids about Him and His character. Keep your prayers simple and avoid big or symbolic words that kids might not understand.

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BIBLE CONNECTION



Teaching today's character word through a gospel-centered Bible story

Teaching picture (resources)

Introduce the Story

Who can tell me what the character word is today? (<u>contentment</u>) What does it mean to be <u>content</u>? (being happy with what I have) In today's story, we are going to hear about two men that were <u>content</u> in their situation, even though they were hurt badly and in prison.

Use the Bible

Guide kids to open their KBC Study Bibles to Acts 16:16-19 (page 1210). Invite kids to follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story.

Acts 16:16-19

Paul and his missionary team stayed in Philippi for a while. One day as they walked to the place by the river to meet for prayer, a slave girl started to follow them. She had an evil spirit living inside her. The evil spirit enabled this slave girl to predict the future. Her owners made a lot of money from this slave girl because many people paid to have her tell them their future. The Holy Spirit enabled Paul to realize that it was time to put a stop to what the slave girl was doing.

The Holy Spirit empowered Paul to command the evil spirit controlling the slave girl to leave, and in Jesus' name the evil spirit obeyed and left the girl. The Holy Spirit enabled Paul to stop this slave girl from being used by the evil spirit to distract others from coming to Jesus and being saved. The slave girl had been set free and was no longer controlled by this evil spirit. This was a good thing, but her owners were not very happy with what Paul did. Now that she was not able to be a fortune teller, they weren't going to be able to make money. This made them very angry with Paul and Silas. The owners brought Paul and Silas to the town rulers. They were beaten and thrown into prison.

Acts 16:20-24

Ask the kids to find verse 20-24 and follow along as you read the verses aloud.

Talk About It

The leaders commanded the man in charge of the prison to make sure that they were secure and could not get out. When the jailer received the leader's orders he took Paul and Silas far back into an inner prison that had no outside walls and put their feet into blocks of wood called stocks. (Show the teaching picture) These stocks were two pieces of wood that would clamp down over the prisoner's legs at the ankles. This type of imprisonment was meant for the most dangerous prisoners. Paul and Silas had not done anything wrong to be treated this way. If you were Paul and Silas what do you think you would do as you lay there in the dark, cold cell? (Allow children to answer. Guide their answers as needed.)

Acts 16:25-34

Ask the kids to find verses 25-34 and follow along as you tell the story in your own words.

LESSON 17 "CONTENTMENT" (page 3)

Teaching Tip

Post stories and pictures from your Beach Club on your church or individual Facebook page. Let your friends know how important KiDs Beach Club® is to you. It's a great way to remind your friends to pray for you and the kids each week. If you use @KiDsBeachClub it will be easier for other Beach Club leaders and the corporate staff to find your pictures and stories.

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Because both men were believers in Jesus, they chose not to focus on their unfair treatment, but focused instead on God's character. Because they chose to worship and praise God in their difficulties, it caused the other prisoners to listen to them as they prayed and sang. While the prisoners were listening to the prayers and praises of Paul and Silas, they felt a great earthquake and the whole prison began to shake. All the doors were opened and the chains fell off each and every prisoner.

The jailer had fallen asleep, but the shaking ground and noises of opening doors must have awakened him. As he rubbed his eyes and looked and saw every door opened, fear struck his heart. His job was to make sure the prisoners were securely locked into prison. If one prisoner escaped he would be killed. When he saw the doors open, he knew his life was over so he drew his sword and was ready to take his own life. Then, Paul cried out with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, we are all here!"

The jailer asked for a torch so that he could see. When he ran into Paul and Silas' prison cell and saw they, and all the prisoners, were still there, he trembled and fell down before them. He brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" What response did Paul and Silas give? They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household." Paul and Silas spoke God's words to this jailer and all that lived in his house.

The jailer believed in Jesus. This same jailer who had been rough with Paul and Silas earlier by throwing them into jail and locking their feet in stocks, now cleaned their wounds.

Gospel Connection

Because Paul and Silas believed Jesus was their Savior, they were able to remain joyful and <u>content</u> while in prison. Just like the jailer, you too can believe in the Lord Jesus and you can be saved. You must ADMIT to God that you have sinned against Him and ASK for forgiveness. You must BELIEVE that Jesus died and rose from the dead. You must CHOOSE to follow Him. If you want to know more, please talk to one of the leaders after the lesson.

Invite children wanting to know more about becoming a Christian to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one on one.

Application/Transition

As you go this week, remember that some things might not go your way. Whatever situations you find yourself in, pause and ask God to help you to be <u>content</u>. Remember, Paul and Silas were <u>content</u>, even in prison.

Gospel Tip

Share the story of how you accepted Jesus as Lord of your life. When sharing a testimony with kids, keep it simple. Focus on how you knew it was time to receive Christ. Tell the kids where you were and what you did right after. Tell the kids that it is important to remember the time you chose to follow Jesus and share your story with others.

LESSON 17 "CONTENTMENT" (page 4)

Teaching Tip

Send a card to the kids in your surf team. You may consider taking a photo of you and your surf team, then use the picture to create a personal card. Tell the clubbers to look for their card in the mail. They love to receive mail! You can get addresses for the kids in your surf team from your club's record keeper. Remember to mail the cards!

SURF TEAM TIME

LESSON 17 "CONTENTMENT" (page 5)

Connecting with kids in small groups; applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens

Gospel Connection

Before you begin, ask if there are any clubbers who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their forever friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.

Today's Lesson

- What questions do you have about today's story?
- Name two men from our story.
- What does it mean to be content?
- How can you show contentment at home? At school? Other places?
- What happened to the jailer? Why did he choose to follow Jesus?
- Encourage clubbers to write one way they can show contentment this week on an index card.

Pray

Give each kid an index card and a pen. Encourage them to write a prayer request on the card. Ask volunteers to share what they wrote on their cards. Lead the kids in prayer.

Lord, please help me when I see things or hear things that make me jealous. Help me to be thankful for what I have and be grateful in any situation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Use the Bible



Give each child a memory link card. Review today's memory link and character word. Guide kids to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles. Lead them to highlight today's memory link.

Hang 10 Pages



Give each child a Hang 10 page. Challenge kids to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage kids to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

Let's look at Day 5. Who would like to look up Luke 12:15 on page 1126 and read it to us? Think of something you treasure. Is it an item you can hold? Is it a person or a place? God loves you more than you could ever imagine. You are His treasure. Let's read the prayer together. Lord, thank You for loving me. You are in charge and know what's best. Help me to remember that. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Teaching Tip

Make sure to keep the energy level up until the very end of your club time. If you are excited and participate, the children will do the same. Even if something seems goofy or you've covered a concept before, repetition is good for children. It can help give them confidence.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME



LESSON 17
"CONTENTMENT"
(page 6)

Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word

Option 1 - HOOP AROUND

Hula hoop

Guide your team to hold hands forming a circle. Ask two clubbers to let go of their grip long enough for them to place their hands through a hula hoop before rejoining hands. The group will pass the hula hoop from person to person by stepping into the hoop, bringing it up and over their head and moving it to the next person. The team task is to pass the hoop around the circle. The game leader will randomly stop play and ask a review question, which will be answered by the kids with a hoop around their bodies at that time. Continue until all questions are answered. The surf team who moves the hoop completely around the circle the most times is declared the winner.

Option 2 - CRUSH IT

Styrofoam cups

Form two teams. Invite volunteers from each team to play. Players may stand facing each other at a table or they may sit facing each other on the floor. Players will keep their hands behind their backs. Place a styrofoam cup upside down in front of each student. Ask a review question. The first player to reach out and crush their cup has a turn to answer the question and earn a point for their team. If the player does not give the correct answer, his opponent has an opportunity to "steal." Continue until all questions are answered. Tally the points and declare a winner.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. In what book of the Bible is today's story found? (Acts)
- 2. Recite today's memory link. ("And let the peace of God rule in your hearts." Colossians 3:15a)
- 3. Name two people from the story. (Slave girl, Paul, Silas, jailer, other prisoners)
- 4. Why were Paul and Silas put in prison? (for releasing a slave girl from an evil spirit.)
- 5. How did Paul and Silas show contentment? (Answers will vary)
- 6. What happened when the ground began to shake? (Chains fell off and prison doors opened)
- 7. What did the jailer do when he woke up and found the doors open? (He drew his sword and was going to kill himself)
- 8. What did Paul say to the jailer? (Do not harm yourself. We are all here.)
- 9. What did Paul say the jailer must do to be saved? (Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ)
- 10. What must people today do to be saved? (Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ)



"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts."

Colossians 3:15a

KBC Study Bible page 1302