

STUFF

BIG IDEA

Having a lot of stuff can bring us temporary joy and security, but it can also become a real burden. Real joy and security comes from God.

KEY VERSES

Philippians 4:12-13

MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 4:12-13

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON

- Cast: Hiker 1 dressed for hiking and wearing large backpack, Hiker 2 dressed for hiking
- Props: large backpack filled with lots of stuff

GAME

- Cotton balls
- (tables or other smooth surfaces needed on the field)

CRAFT

- Experience Mission provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples
- envelopes (about 10 per child)
- rubber stamps and ink
- colored pencils or markers
- key chain or loose-leaf ring (one per child)
- clear tape
- stickers
- letter stickers (optional)

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

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- Hiker 1 (Huffing and puffing) Whew! I'm getting tired. How much longer do we have to hike?
- Hiker 2 You're tired already? We just left 5 minutes ago, we've just begun.
- Hiker 1 (Groans) I'm never going to make it! This pack is so heavy!
- Hiker 2 (Studies pack) What do you have in that thing anyway? This is just a day hike. Let's take a break and see if there is anything we can leave behind.
- Hiker 1 & 2 (Both sit down and open pack)
- Hiker 2 Now I see why you're so tired. You packed all of your belongings in here!
- Hiker 1 What? (Confused) Did I take too much stuff?
- Hiker 2 You packed way, way, way too much stuff! (Begin taking things out of bag and listing them)
- Hiker 1 (As Hiker 2 goes through bag, defend the items for a while then realize you really did pack too much stuff) Well, I guess I might have packed a bit too much.
- Hiker 2 That's right, and there's only one way to solve this problem. (Begin dumping things out)
- Hiker 1 (Alarmed) What are you doing?
- Hiker 2 We're just going on a day hike, you really don't need all this stuff. You'll have a much better time if your load is light.
- Hiker 1 But...but...all that stuff is so special to me. That's my entire life in that bag.
- Hiker 2 That's too bad.
- Hiker 1 Too bad? What do you mean? This is great stuff! (Point out how "important" various items are to daily life.)
- Hiker 2 But look at yourself. Here you are in the great out doors, surrounded by all your stuff, too weighed down by it all to enjoy a simple, beautiful hike. Is this really all that satisfying? Are you really content to drag this load around everywhere?
- Hiker 1 Well....I see your point...I guess....
- Hiker 2 Tell me honestly. Aren't you tired of carrying all this around? Doesn't it limit you from enjoying other parts of life?
- Hiker 1 Yah, actually I couldn't go on a school trip because there wasn't enough room on the bus for my stuff.
- Hiker 2 And isn't your mind often occupied with keeping track of all your stuff and wanting to get more stuff?

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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (CONT.)

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- Hiker 1 Um...yes. I admit it. I am always thinking about my stuff. I'm always worn out and too busy. It's a lame way to live, isn't it?
- Hiker 2 I think you'll be much more content if you lighten the load and enjoy simply living. But there's more to it than that. The really important thing is knowing where you find true satisfaction and strength from.
- Hiker 1 You mean God?
- Hiker 2 Right. A long time ago there was a man named Paul. For much of his life he was wealthy and famous in his community, then one day while traveling he met God and his life was changed forever. He lived the rest of his life moving from place to place, sometimes starving, sometimes misunderstood, and sometimes homeless. He wrote a letter to his friends about his situation and he said, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
- Hiker 1 You've given me a lot to think about. I don't want to live this way, putting my trust in all my stuff and all my energy into protecting it.
- Hiker 2 Tell you what, let's leave your stuff here for now and finish our hike.
- Hiker 1 Lets go!

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Why was it so hard for the hiker to enjoy the hike?
- 2) Why did the hiker want to keep all his stuff with him?
- 3) Do you ever get distracted by stuff?
- 4) What type of stuff do you think about wanting to have?
- 5) Do you ever put your trust in your stuff to make you happy rather than God?
- 6) Do you ever put your trust in your self to stay strong rather than God?
- 7) What does it mean to be content in all circumstances?

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- Tells the skit as a simple story
- Ask 2-3 of the simpler questions

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CRAFT & GAME

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• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: COLLECTION BOOK

Kids will make a collection book out of envelopes to keep very special items such as notes, memory verses and other small items.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- envelopes (about 10 per child)
- rubber stamps and ink
- colored pencils or markers
- key chain or loose-leaf ring (one per child)
- clear tape
- stickers
- letter stickers (optional)

DIRECTIONS

- Place a small piece of clear tape in the upper right corner of each envelope (this will reinforce the envelope)
- Punch a hole in the middle of the tape
- Decorate with stamps, stickers and drawings
- Label envelopes with titles such as “special notes”, “recipes”, “favorite verses”, “photos”, etc. (optional)
- Stack envelopes and secure with key chain ring or loose-leaf ring

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, hole punch, staplers

EXAMPLE



SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Reinforce envelopes with tape prior to club.
- Punch hole in middle of taped corner prior to club.

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CRAFT & GAME

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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: COTTON BALL BLOWING

Teams try to blow cotton balls over the edge of their opponents side of the table.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Cotton balls
 - (tables or other smooth surfaces needed on the field)
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INSTRUCTIONS

- Separate children into teams of 5-7 (depending on size of table). Line up two teams along the long sides of the table facing one another.
- Place one or two cotton balls in the middle of the table. Teams try to blow the cotton balls off their opponent's side of the table.
- Winning team plays the next team.

ADDITIONAL GAME OPTIONS

- *Add a few heavier objects to increase difficulty (paper clips, wads of paper, etc.)*
- *Play a simple game of tag after the cotton ball game for additional exercise.*

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