

CONTENTMENT

BIG IDEA

Contentment is the attitude of accepting whatever God provides for us, and being happy with it. It does not seek what we do not need for gratification, and does not find happiness in the shallow things of life.

KEY VERSES

Philippians 4:12b-13

MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 4:12b-13

“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 SKIT

- Optional - styrofoam cups (one with a crack in the bottom) and a bottle of water.

GAME

- Jump ropes. One per team.

CRAFT

- Sticky back foam sheets in a variety of colors
- Yarn, bulky/thick type.
- Small white paper plates, two per child
- Tongue depressor, one per child
- Glue

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



CONTENTMENT

Lesson 5

LESSON STORY

SCRIPT

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers on your side of the path but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to share with others. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be as much beauty and joy in the world.

Adapted from <http://varietyreading.carlsguides.com>.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the pot's imperfection?
2. Why did it bother the pot?
3. Did the pot think it was all alone in the knowledge of its imperfection?
4. How did the pot feel about itself?
5. How did the pot deal with its imperfection?
6. How did the water bearer deal with the pot's imperfection?
7. Do you ever feel imperfect or flawed?
8. How can you be content with your weaknesses and imperfections?

LESSON OPTIONS

- Use two styrofoam cups and some water to illustrate this story as it is told.
- Ask 3-4 of the simpler discussion questions.

CONTENTMENT

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: FLIP-FLOP FACE

Kids create happy and sad faces opposite sides.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, hole punches

DIRECTIONS

- Cut facial features (eyes, eyebrows, nose, mouth) out of sticky back foam. Make a happy set and a sad/angry set.
- Adhere happy features to the back of one paper plate. Adhere sad/angry features to the back of the other paper plate.
- Glue tongue depressor to the bottom front rim of one plate.
- Glue front rims of plates together.
- Glue yarn hair.

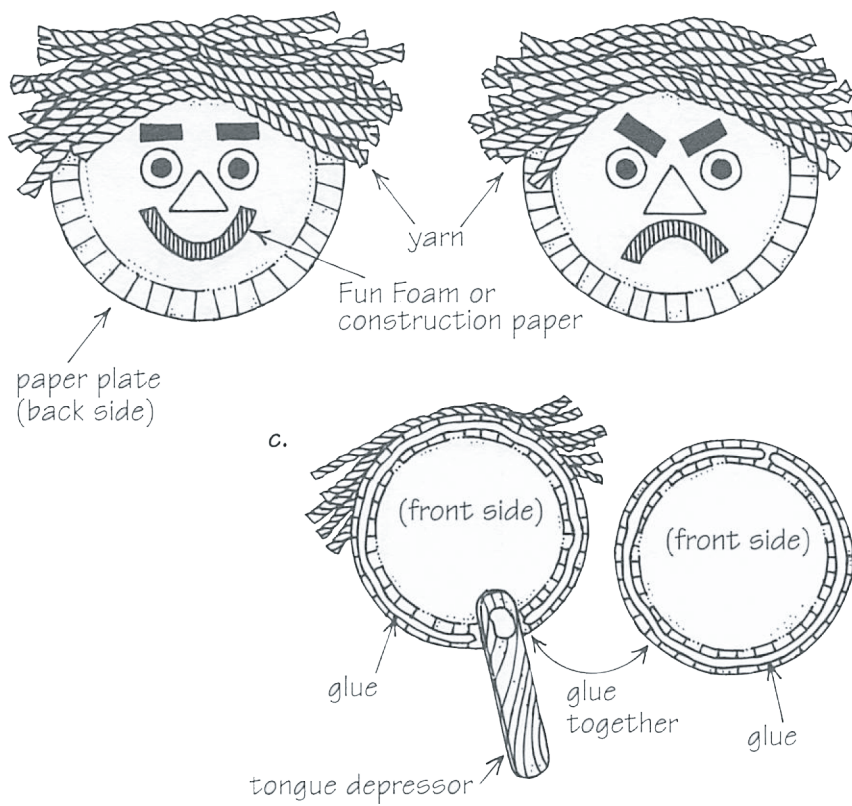
MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Sticky back foam sheets in a variety of colors
- Yarn, bulky/thick type.
- Small white paper plates, two per child
- Tongue depressor, one per child
- Glue

EXAMPLE

SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- pre-cut facial features
- use colored paper instead of foam
- draw facial features instead of using shapes



CONTENTMENT

Lesson 5

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: JUMPROPE RELAY

Kids race relay style with jump ropes

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Jump ropes, one per team

DIRECTIONS

- Break children up into teams.
- Give first child from each team a jump rope.
- Children jump rope to turning point and back.
- When they return to start they hand jump rope to their teammate and sit at the back of the line.
- First team with all members sitting wins.

SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTIONS

- Kids hop across a play area rather than jump rope.
- Kids run across a play area rather than jump rope.



