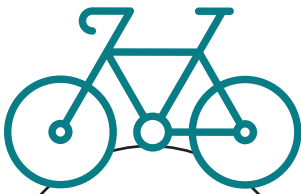


Upcycle: Roll with what you've got



First, watch
this week's
video!

**Contentment:
Learning to
be okay with
what you have**

Memory Verse

"Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has.'" Luke 12:15, NIV

Bible Story

Giving Freely to the Lord's People 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Bottom Line

You can always use what you have to help someone else.

Use this guide to help your family learn how God can help us be content.

Activity

Help Desk

What You Need:

Random items from your home (for example, plastic hanger, dish towel, box of bandages, ball, cup, plate, stuffed animal, book, pen, socks); large canvas or paper bag

What You Do:

With your child, take turns drawing random items out of the bag. Think of one way you could use each item to help other people. (Some ideas are below.)

- Hanger: Help with laundry.
- Ball: Offer to take your little brother outside to play while your parents are working.
- Cup: Get your older brother a drink while he's working in the yard.
- Plate: Offer to take someone's plate to the sink.
- Stuffed animal: Lend your favorite stuffed animal to your little sister when she's scared.
- Book: Share your favorite book with a kid in your class.
- Pen or marker: Write a "get well" note to someone who is sick.
- Pair of socks: Donate new socks to a homeless shelter.
- Box of bandages or travel-size tissues: Offer these to someone who is hurt or sick.
- Dishrag or towel: Help clean the bathroom or wipe off the kitchen counters. Now, share your drawing and see how close they got to your description. (Try to make the comparison silly so they don't feel like they did it wrong!)

Once you're finished, if time allows, try to think of a second way to help people with each item you've got—get creative!

Talk About the Bible Story

How did the church from our story help others with what they had? (*They didn't have much, but with what they did have, they all shared or gave to others.*)

Even though you're still young, how can you help others? (*Just like the people in the early church, I may not have a lot of possessions, but I can help others with what I'm good at.*)

How can being content show others that you trust God?

What's one thing you can do this week to use what you have to help someone else?

Parent: Share about a time when you used what you had to help someone else. It doesn't have to be an example of anything extravagant, but talk about how good it felt to give—even when you were just using what you had to help someone else.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"God, thank You for teaching us this month about what it means to be content or okay with what we have. We are grateful for all that You have given us. Help us pay attention this week so we can use what we have to help others. Thank You for loving us. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Contentment is learning to be okay with what you have.



DAY 1

Read Luke 3:10-11

Grab a timer and head to your room. Set the timer for 30 seconds and grab as many things from your room as you can. You can grab socks, toys, books, stuffed animals – whatever you can find! Pile it all on your bed. Ready? 30 seconds on the clock.... Go!

According to Luke, what should we do with our extra? Yes, share. One big secret to being content with what we have is looking at our stuff in a different way. Take a look at the pile of stuff on your bed. Instead of thinking, “This is my stuff” what if you thought “How can I use my stuff to help others?”

Set a timer for two minutes. Then, pick up each item and name one way you could share or use that item to help someone else. You can even name specific people you want to help. **Ready? Go!**

Even if you don’t think you have much, there is always something you can share. Even if it’s just your time. When someone needs help, use what you have to help! (Now, help out your Mom and Dad, set another timer for 1 minute and put ALL that stuff back where it goes!)

DAY 2

Read Acts 20:35

What’s better? Circle your answer below

- | | | |
|-------------|----|--------------|
| Chocolate | or | Vanilla |
| Baseball | or | Basketball |
| Hot weather | or | Cold weather |
| Mountains | or | Beach |
| Giving | or | Receiving |

We’ve been talking about contentment or learning to be okay with what you have. Paul wrote these words to the leaders of the early church. Once he put his trust in Jesus, Paul traveled all over, teaching people about Jesus and starting churches along the way. You’ve probably heard about Paul before.

But did you know that Paul was a tentmaker? He continued in this work so that he could support himself and could help others in need? Paul understood that wanting more, getting more, holding onto more wasn’t the goal! Jesus tells us it’s better to give than to receive.

Do you agree that it’s better to give or receive? As you pray today, ask God to help you focus on giving instead of getting so that you can practice being content.

Read Matthew 5:42

Pretend there's this kid in your class. We'll call him Forgetful Fred. Forgetful Fred earned that name because he's always forgetting stuff. Every day, he asks someone if he can borrow some paper, or an eraser, or a brand new box of colored pencils.

One day, you're at the store and you find this cool two pack of mechanical pencils. You buy it with your own money and stick it in your backpack. But when you sit down at your desk the next day, there's Forgetful Fred, right in your face, eyeing the second pencil and asking to borrow it.

What do you do? Sure, you have two pencils but what if you lose one? Then you'd really need it, right?

Not so fast. Read today's verse again. When you have something someone else needs and have the ability to share, you should. When someone asks to borrow something, even if it's Forgetful Fred, you should say, "yes."

Grab a piece of paper and a pencil. Draw a picture of Forgetful Fred holding a pencil. Write out the words of today's verse at the bottom of the page as a reminder to be willing to use what you have to help someone else.

Read James 1:5

All week long, we've been learning to use what you to have to help someone else. But maybe you're thinking, "I'm a kid! I don't have a job, or lots of money or stuff!"

If you aren't sure how to help, you can always ask God to show you! He will not say, "That's a really silly question!" God will show you how you can use what you have to help someone else. The One who holds all the answers to every question will never turn you away. When you need wisdom, you can always ask God.

Use the binary code to complete the picture below. For every 1, color in that corresponding square. For every 0, leave it blank. What do you see?

0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	1	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0

You can always use what you to have to help someone else.