

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."

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Key Question

How can you use what you have to help others?

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

Activity

Run for Help

What You Need:

Random items from around your home

What You Do:

Tell your child that you're going to read several scenarios of people who need help. Their job is to go around your home and find something they could use to help the people in need. But they only have 30 seconds for each scenario, so they need to hurry!

Read the following scenarios, one at a time. After reading each one, set a timer and then cheer on your child. It might be helpful to have a few items in mind for each scenario, so you can give them a hint or two if they get stumped.

Scenarios:

- Mom or Dad is overwhelmed with laundry (clothes hamper, detergent, hangers)
- The homeless population is growing (extra food, extra clothes, phone to create awareness and reach out to others for donations, piggy bank for donation)
- A new neighbor just moved in (trash bags to help them clean up the packing supplies, a plate of brownies, a list of the best local restaurants)
- Younger sibling is struggling in school (books to read together, calendar to schedule study time)
- Kid at school is getting teased (paper to write an encouraging note, device to reach out to them)
- Someone you care about gets sick (markers to create a card, stuffed animal to bring for comfort, Bible verses you can use as you pray for them)

Say, "You came up with some pretty creative ways to be helpful. Let's talk about the believers in the early church and what we can learn from them."

Talk About the Bible Story

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

What does contentment have to do with generosity? *(When we're content with what we have, we're more likely to be generous.)*

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, through Your Word, You have taught us so much about contentment this month. We know that, through Your power, we can learn to be okay with what we have. God, help us to be thankful for what we have right now. Help us to be generous with what we have, and show us ways we can use what we have to help others. Amen!"