

## LESSON 1 • Wants vs. Needs

## WANTS VS. NEEDS

## 1 Key Concepts

- Wants vs. Needs
- Teach the children the difference between needs and wants.
- Have the children define these words.
- Teach the children what it means to be content.
- Teach the word satisfaction

## 2 Teacher Preparation

- Have the children open their bibles to **Exodus 16**.
- Make a list of the needs and wants of the children of Israel.
- Cut strips of paper to make a paper chain. The children will write what they are thankful for on the strips of paper. Have a dictionary ready to use.

## 3 Lesson

- Look up the words need and want. Write the definitions on the board.
- Read **Exodus 16** with the children.
  - Talk about why the Israelites were not content.
  - How did God provide for them?
  - Did the Israelites follow God's commands?
  - What did God do to the Israelites when the Israelites didn't listen to God?
  - How long did God provide for them?
  - Do you think the Israelites were still happy or content eating manna and quail after 40 years?
- God wants us to not complain but be content. God always provides for us and is always there for us. We need to be thankful for all of the gifts He has given us. Use our gifts the best way that we can.

## 4 Conclusion

God will always give us what we need. Even if it isn't what WE want, He gives us what we need. Give thanks to God for all of the things He has given us.

## 5 Echo Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all of the things you have given us. Help us to be content with the things we have. Help us to be thankful for all that we have, even if we really want something different. Thank you for always providing for us.

Amen.



I Timothy 6:8

*But if we have food  
and clothing, we will be  
content with that.*



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### 6 Resources

- **Bible** Exodus 16
- **Luther's Small Catechism** The First Article
- **Scholastic Children's Dictionary**
- **Babcock, Chris. No Moon, No Milk!**  
This book is about a cow who is not content just being a cow. She wants to walk on the moon. But will that make Martha truly happy?
- **<http://gardenofpraise.com/bibl52s.htm>**  
This site has online activities for the students based on the Parable of the Talents.

### 7 Vocabulary

**Wants:** to wish for, to feel that you would like to have something

**Needs:** things that you have to have to live each day

**Content:** to be happy

**Satisfaction:** a feeling of being content because you have accomplished something that you wanted to do.

### 8 Worksheet

Have the children choose strips of paper. On each strip of paper, the children will write something they are thankful for. Connect the end of each strip together to make your links of the chain. Put the links together and hang in your classroom.

