

Lesson 7

Be Content

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: I Kings 21:1-20, 27-29

MEMORY VERSE: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. Philippians 4:11b

CATECHISM:

The Ninth Commandment: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not seek by craftiness to gain possession of our neighbor's inheritance or home, nor obtain them He under pretense of a legal right, but assist and serve him in keeping the same.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God provides for us and our neighbors.
- God wants us to be content and thankful for all He provides.

MATERIALS: Lessons, Bibles, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: King Ahab and his wife Jezebel weren't content. He wanted his neighbor, Naboth's vineyard for a garden. Naboth wouldn't sell it because God gave his family that land. King Ahab was furious. He coveted that vineyard and couldn't be happy without it.

Jezebel told the king she'd get him that vineyard. She wrote letters and had liars say Naboth cursed God and the king. The queen ordered the rulers to stone Naboth to death and they did just that. Naboth was dead and Ahab got Naboth's vineyard. One sin led to another: coveting, lying, murder and stealing. Ahab and Jezebel weren't content and didn't protect their neighbor's property.

The Ninth Commandment teaches us to be satisfied or content with what God has given us. God wants us to be thankful for what He provides for us and for our neighbors. God say not to covet. When we covet, we aren't thankful for what God has given us.

Ahab became sorry later and asked God to forgive his sins. God forgave him. God forgives us too when we confess our sins and ask forgiveness. When we break God's commandments, we sin. Jesus came to forgive sin. His death on the cross made the way for sin to be forgiven.

- a) POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) Have you ever wanted something so much that you were unhappy? 2) What does it mean to covet? 3) What did Ahab want? Why? 4) Do you think you could have said no to a king because you wanted to obey God? 5) What did King Ahab do when Naboth said no? 6) What do we do when we sin or covet?

ACTIVITY 1: Story Report: Answer the questions based on the lesson's story.

ACTIVITY 2: Covet or Be Content? Covet, Property, Inheritance, Thankful, Home, Ninth, Want.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☐ Study the Bible Background.
- ☐ Become familiar with the Teachers' Manual and consider highlighting the places where it is suggested you make a statement or ask a question.

Prepare Materials

- ☐ Activity sheets
- ☐ Lessons
- ☐ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Pray that each child will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as He convicts of sin.
- Pray that your students might be happy in what God gives, especially in knowing Jesus as Savior.

Bible Background

I Kings 21:1-20, 27-29 Coveting leads to even more sin

Contentment does not come easily to us human beings because we are not always satisfied with what we have. Think, for example, of our ancestors who lived in sod huts along with children (and even animals). Advertisements tell us not to be content. They get us to think that we really “need” that new car, the latest fashions, and more “conveniences” to be content. Some people are not content until they have the latest cell phone or computer or gaming system.

Paul's statement is quite profound: “For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am” (Philippians 4:11b). Of course, he lived in a different world with different needs, but from his dangerous travels, from fears for his own life, from health problems and other experiences, he learned to be content with what God provided for him. Contentment is a learning process and might be even harder for us who live in a very comfortable world.

King Ahab had a very comfortable life according to the standards of his day, but he coveted his neighbor's vineyard which was next to the palace. Ahab seemed to act fairly and asked to buy it, offering Naboth very generous compensation (v.2).

But Naboth wouldn't sell, not because he was stubborn but because “The LORD forbid me that I would give you the inheritance of my fathers!” (v.3). This was based on the Law of Moses (Lev 25:23, Num 36:7).

“The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me” and “So no inheritance of the sons of Israel will be transferred from tribe to tribe, for the sons of Israel shall each retain possession of the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.”

King Ahab goes home and pouts (v.4b). This rage and childish sulking are seen in a weak and selfish nature that is accustomed to getting what it wants.

But Ahab has a “good wife” (21:5-16) who asks him what is wrong, and Ahab tells Jezebel about his visit with Naboth (leaving out Naboth's reason for not selling). Jezebel has a unique sort of wickedness. She is evil and strong. She takes charge and scornfully asks Ahab “Do you now reign over Israel?” (v.7). She is telling Ahab he is weak, so she will get the vineyard for him (but not legally, which is of no concern to her).

Jezebel makes her plans (vs.8-10) and “seeks by craftiness to gain possession of her neighbor’s inheritance and home, and to obtain them under pretense of a legal right.” She has no intent of helping Naboth keep his property.

Her plan has the appearance of legality. She sets up a feast for Naboth and arranges for witnesses to accuse him of treason, saying that “You cursed God and the king” (v.10). To do that she needed two “worthless men” to bear “false witness against their neighbor,” Naboth (v.10). If that charge were true, it brought capital punishment according to the law of Moses, and she made it clear that Naboth was to be stoned to death (v.14).

The elders and the nobles of the city did just as Jezebel had told them and sent word back to her saying, “Naboth has been stoned and is dead” (v.14). Jezebel then tells Ahab to go and take possession of Naboth’s vineyard (v.15).

Then the Lord sends the prophet Elijah to Ahab with a strong message: “The LORD has also spoken of Jezebel, saying, ‘The dogs will eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel. The one belonging to Ahab, who dies in the city, the dogs will eat; and the one who dies in the field, the birds of the sky will eat’” (vs.23-24).

Ahab apparently still had a conscience because “when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently” (v.27). Because Ahab humbled himself, The Lord said, “I will not bring the disaster in his days; I will bring the disaster upon his house in his son’s days” (v.29).

Our discontent, even in the midst of abundance, will trouble us and can cause us to act rashly. We must humble ourselves and confess the sin of discontent, which is really a lack of trust in the Lord. For that we must begin at the cross where Jesus made full satisfaction for all our sins, and then thank God for providing abundantly for us according to His riches in Christ Jesus.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

King Ahab: One of many evil kings over the nation of Israel.

Jezebel: King Ahab’s wife and queen, who was very evil. She was not an Israelite, but a princess of a nation who worshipped false gods.

Content: Happy, a satisfied feeling.

satisfied: a happy or pleased feeling, because of something that happened to you or something that you did.

covet: wanting something very much, especially something that belongs to someone else.

seek by craftiness: using trickery

under pretense of a legal right: using the law to cheat

keeping the same: keep the things what already belong to someone

interests: a person’s rights or claims towards real property or things they own.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive and talk with them about the good things that have happened to them. **SHARING:** Ask them to share some of these good things.

Lead the class in a prayer of thanks, encouraging them to offer a sentence prayer of thanks, if they like. Include: Thanking God for His loving care, for working things out for our good, for Jesus who takes away our sins, and that God will teach us to trust Him and be happy because He is our Savior.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Matthew 6:33". Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Eighth Commandment, which focused on our right use of words, our responsibility to our neighbors, and our heart attitudes towards them. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 3 lessons. Ask questions such as:

- Who asked God to forgive the people who lied about him and threw stones at him?
- What peacemaker apologized for her husband and stopped David from doing a very bad thing?

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: How do you feel when a friend gets something new that you want and don't have? Have you ever wanted something so much that you were unhappy? Did you go to your room and pout about it? Today's lesson tells us how God wants us to feel at a time like that. God wants us to be happy with what we have.

Read the Lesson

SAY: God says, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house." God tells us we should not want anyone else's house or land. The meaning of the Ninth Commandment tells us that we should not want anything that belongs to another person. Teacher **READ** the opening paragraph. (TM NOTE: When God gave a family property in Old Testament times, it had to stay in their family. By Law, they could lease it out, but not permanently sell it. (Leviticus 25:12-28).

ASK: What does it mean to covet? How does God want us to feel when a friend gets something nice? (we should be happy with what we have and happy that our friend has nice things).

Ask a student to read the second paragraph and another the third.

Discuss the following:

- b) What did Ahab want? Why?
- c) Did King Ahab really need the vineyard?
- d) Did Naboth sell his vineyard to King Ahab? Why not? (God had told His people not to sell their land but keep it for their children and grandchildren.)
- e) Do you think you could have said no to a king because you wanted to obey God?
- f) Can you imagine a king pouting because he couldn't have something? King Ahab was being greedy and

coveting the vineyard. He broke the ninth Commandment.

- g) How did Queen Jezebel get Naboth's vineyard? (getting people to lie about Naboth, who then was killed.)

Read the fourth and fifth paragraphs. When Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard, he sinned. That wasn't a small thing—it led to other sins. His wife and the other rulers lied, breaking the Eighth Commandment and when they killed Naboth, they broke the Fifth Commandment. Sin might seem like a small thing, but it is always serious. God hates sin.

SAY: Let's see what God did. God loved Ahab and wanted him to be sorry for his sin,

God sent His prophet, Elijah, to tell Ahab that he had sinned. Elijah said all that God told him to say, even that God would punish him for his sins. **ASK:** What do you think happened next? Read the sixth paragraph and then sum up: Ahab was sorry, he confessed his sin to God, and God forgave him. **ASK:** What do we do when we sin or covet? Yes, we must confess our sin to Jesus right away. We can tell Him what the sin was and ask Him to forgive it. We should confess all our sins this way. **PRAY:** "Dear Jesus, forgive me when I want what others have. Please help me be happy with what you give me. Amen"

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

Word Swap?

Activity 1

Cross out the wrong word and write the right one on the line.

Activity 1
WORD SWAP

Change one word in each sentence to make it correct. Cross out the incorrect word. Write the correct word on the line. Then read the new sentence.

1. Jesus talked to His ~~angels~~ about how God cares for the flowers and birds.
disciples

2. God takes care of the birds and gives them ~~grass~~.
food

3. The birds do not worry about who will ~~like~~ them.
feed

4. The flowers do not worry about what they will ~~eat~~.
wear




5. Jesus reminded the disciples that they are more important than ~~trees~~.
birds and flowers

6. Jesus did not want His disciples to ~~sing~~.
worry

7. God ~~says~~, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by ~~number~~; you are Mine!"
name

8. God will provide all that I ~~want~~.
need

9. Being content means being ~~mad~~ about what God gives me.
happy or satisfied



Flying Maze

Activity 2

Help the bird fly through each maze, write the message from each maze on the line.

Activity 2
FLYING MAZE

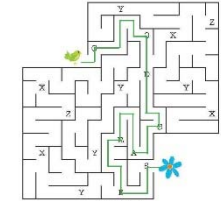
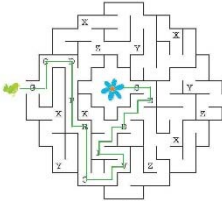
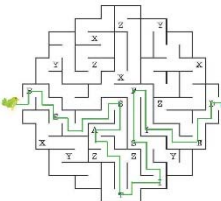
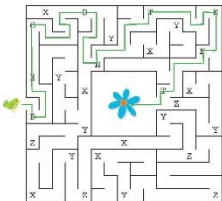
Help the bird fly to the flower in each maze. Avoid X, Y, Z. Write the secret messages on the blanks under each maze.

MAZE 1
be content

MAZE 2
be satisfied

MAZE 3
God provides

MAZE 4
God cares



CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.