
GOD IS CONTENTMENT

SERIES: STAND FIRM

Join us throughout the month of July as we learn what it means to **STAND FIRM** in our faith! We will be going through the books of Galatians, Philippians, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

REMEMBER VERSE

2 CORINTHIANS 5:5—Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

SCHEDULE

All Services

0:00—0:10	Welcome/Check-In
0:10—0:15	Transition to Large Group
0:15—0:30	Large Group (B100)
0:30—0:35	Transition to Small Group
0:35—1:05	Small Group (Lesson/Activity/Respond)
1:05—1:15	Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: God's Spirit Renews

Fruit of the Spirit & Galatia

CURRENT WEEK: God is Contentment

Letter to the Philippians

WEEK 3: God is Hope

Letters to Thessalonians

EQUIP

God is contentment. We see this in Paul's letter to the Philippians, which overflows with joy, love, and peace.

We gather from 2 Corinthians 8:2 that by the time Paul would have written this letter, the churches in the region of Philippi would have been suffering from poverty and persecution. But unlike other early churches, this church wasn't overcome by serious problems of doctrine, heresy, or sin. Instead of writing a letter of rebuke, Paul wrote to the Philippian church to let the people know how he was doing and to challenge them to live in unity and humility.

Paul founded the church of Philippi on his second missionary journey. Philippi was a proud Roman colony that enjoyed the highest status possible given to a Roman provincial city, *ius italicum*, which meant that even though the city was located outside Italy, it held the same privileges as any other city on Italian soil. After Octavius defeated Brutus and Cassius at the famous battle of Philippi, he gave himself the title Augustus Caesar and rebuilt Philippi, settling retired soldiers there to make it a military outpost and to encourage loyalty.

So when Paul told the magistrates in the city that he had been wrongly beaten (Acts 16:37)—he, a Roman citizen himself—this caused quite an uproar. The city certainly didn't want to lose the very favored status it enjoyed with Rome.

Paul most likely wrote the letter to the Philippians from Rome, during his imprisonment detailed in Acts 28. From prison Paul instructed the Philippians on how to have peace through trials. While chained to two guards, Paul told his readers how to do all things without grumbling and to rejoice in the Lord always. Though his life hung in the balance as he awaited trial, Paul's words shone with the contentment he'd found in Jesus.

ENCOURAGE

In Philippians 4:4-9, Paul offers some practical suggestions for living a life of contentment. Basically, he recommends we rejoice, pray, and think about good things.

Read these verses, and then spend some time following this pattern. First, rejoice! Make a list of things you're thankful for. Listen to praise songs and rejoice in the Lord. Whether you're in a painful season of life or a time when things are going well, praise Him! Second, bring your petitions before God. Literally write them down if you have to. Tell God what you need; He will listen to you. Third, think about good things. Think about the beautiful flowers in your backyard or how much you enjoy listening to music in the car. Praise God for creating each good thing and good moment in the world. Through this exercise, pray God's Holy Spirit will give you the peace and contentment only He offers.

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: What would your perfect day be like?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

Because God is always with us, that means that He can give us contentment during any situation we're facing.

INSTRUCTIONS: Today we'll be making collages for the kids to hang up in their rooms or on their doors. Hand each child a Keep Thinking About Template. Instruct them to cut the page in half so that all the words are on one page. Then, have them color and decorate the words and cut them out. Encourage them to also decorate the main page. Then, have them glue on the words from the verse on the page however they would like in a collage style. Holes may be punched at the top and a string may be attached so it can be hung up.

SUPPLIES:

- Keep Thinking About Template
- Scissors
- Glue
- Coloring Supplies
- Hole Punch

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

Because of the Holy Spirit's power, Paul learned to be content no matter what his circumstances were.

- Where was Paul when he wrote the letter to the Philippians? *Philippians 1:12-14*
- What does contentment mean?
- How is God contentment?
- How could Paul rejoice even after losing everything? *Philippians 3:8*
- How do you think it might change your life if you chose to rejoice in hard circumstances?
- What are some prayer requests you have?

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

ROMANS 15:13 – May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

BLESSING: May God give you contentment in both the easy times and the hard times. In every situation, may you trust that God is working everything together for good.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- None

STORYTELLING

Paul told many people about Jesus and started lots of churches in different areas. Some of these churches got off track, and Paul had to write letters to them in order to remind them of what is true. That's part of what we heard about last week in The Big God Story in Paul's letter to the Galatians. But Paul also wrote letters to churches that were doing well. He wanted to encourage them to keep going even when life got hard. This week, we'll look at a letter Paul wrote to the Philippians. He told them that God is contentment and that He will always take care of His children. But before we get started, let's thank God for giving us His big story! *Lead the children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

Invite kids to turn to Philippians 3 in their Bibles. Paul helped start the church in Philippi. *Tape Paul's Journey Map image to the wall.* Paul didn't write to the Philippians to correct them. They were still following the way of Jesus and depending on the Holy Spirit to help them live for Him. Paul wrote a letter to the Philippians to encourage them. They sometimes were treated badly by others because of their faith in Jesus. But they didn't stop believing in Jesus. Paul wrote to them to tell them he was so thankful for their faith, and he wanted to remind them that they could have contentment in God. What does contentment mean? *Invite responses.* Contentment is being okay with what you have and trusting that God is taking care of you no matter what. Whenever you hear me say the word "contentment" or "content" today, let's clap together. *Lead kids in practicing a clap with each syllable as you say, "con-tent-ment" or "Con-tent."*

When Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, he was in jail—not a fun place to be. But he had learned to be content (*kids clap*) no matter where he was or what he had because he knew God loved him and had filled him with the Holy Spirit. *Tape Jail image to the wall.*

Paul wanted to remind the Philippians that God is contentment. *Invite kids to clap.* *Read Philippians 3:1 aloud.* Paul told the Philippians to rejoice. What does rejoice mean? *Invite responses.* Good thoughts. It means to have joy! Even though people treated them badly, they could rejoice—or have joy—because God had saved them and loved them. *Tape Happy Face image to the wall.*

Paul reminded the Christians in Philippi that before he

became a Christian, he had been an important Jew in charge of a lot of things. But when he became a believer in Jesus, all that changed. He was treated badly, put in prison, and beaten up. But he was content (*kids clap*) because he had a new goal—a new purpose. He wanted to follow Jesus always and gain the prize of life with God forever! *Read Philippians 3:13-14 aloud and tape Medal image to the wall.*

Paul reminded the believers that when they had to face hard times, they could rejoice no matter what because of what Jesus had done for them. They could also be content (*kids clap*) instead of worrying. *Read Philippians 4:6-7 aloud.* Instead of worrying when things go wrong, we can pray and trust God to answer us. He always knows what's best, and when we pray, God encourages us through the Holy Spirit in our lives! *Tape Praying Hands image to the wall.* Paul told the Christians to pray, and then he reminded them to think about good things. When things are tough, we can either focus on what's bad or what's good. Paul reminded Christians to focus on what's good because that's what will help us be content. *Invite kids to clap.* *Read Philippians 4:8 aloud.* What are some good things we can think about when life is hard? What can we be thankful for? *Encourage kids to respond.* Great thoughts! God loves it when we think about Him. He is contentment. *Invite kids to clap.* God takes care of us no matter what.

Paul ended his letter by reminding the Philippians of his situation in jail. He was thankful that the Philippians were worried about him, but he also reminded them that God is in control. Because of God's Spirit, Paul was content (*kids clap*) no matter what was going on. *Read Philippians 4:12 aloud and tape Bread image to the wall.* Paul had been hungry, and he had also been well fed. He had been free, and he had also been in jail. No matter what, he trusted God and rejoiced in any situation because God is contentment. *Invite kids to clap.* *Read Philippians 4:13 aloud.* Paul could do anything God called him to, not because he was so strong, but because God gave him strength! *Tape Strong Person image to the wall.*

Paul wrote a letter to the Philippians to encourage them. He wanted to remind them that God is contentment (*kids clap*) in every situation. They had strong faith, but they needed to be encouraged. Sometimes we need to be encouraged too because we go through hard things. We can always remember that God is contentment (*kids clap*)—He brings us joy and peace in every situation! *Share about a time when you found God gave you contentment in Him.*

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KEEP THINKING ABOUT WHATEVER IS

○

TRUE

admirable

NOBLE

EXCELLENT

right

praiseworthy

PURE

LOVELY