

3

SERIES: HOW STUFF WORKS

How The "Gimmies" Work

PursueGOD.org

Lesson Overview

We're continuing in our series called, "How Stuff Works". It's important to know how stuff works so we don't make mistakes that can hurt us or those we care about. Today, we're going to talk about how the "gimmies" work. This is just a silly word for being greedy. Greed is wanting stuff we don't need and never being happy with what we already have. For example, when your friend gets a new video game, you want to get it too, even though you already have enough games. The "gimmies" can get us in trouble because our focus is on stuff. We don't NEED stuff, but we might WANT stuff. It's important to know the difference. The "gimmies" make us think that we need the newer and better thing in order to be happy so we just want more and more. God doesn't want us to be this way. He wants to cure us of the "gimmies". The cure is being thankful for what we already have! So, let's be thankful kids who appreciate what we already have and stop chasing after stuff we don't need.

Big Idea

The cure for the "gimmies" is to be thankful.

Key Question

Why is greed so bad for us?

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:19 "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY:** Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.
2. (5 min) **WARM UP:** Make a list of things kids really want, like cool gaming systems, clothes, phones, etc. **Why do kids want those things?** (Tip: We all like to get the newest and greatest thing but we need to make sure that's not all we care about.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP:** Read the Lesson Overview (see above).
6. (3 min) **KQ:** Answer the Key Question. (Answer: **Greed puts our focus on the wrong things.** (Greed is selfish. We want what everyone else has and we miss out on being thankful for what we already have. Greed takes our focus off of God and his generosity toward us and puts the focus on meaningless toys and games.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Why is greed a bad thing? How have you been greedy? **4-5th:** Why does being thankful help us to fight against greed?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE:** Read [Ecclesiastes 5:10-11](#). **Why can't money make us happy? What's a better way to view money?** (Answer: Greed is wanting more and more. So, we'll do things to make money so we can buy more stuff. It becomes a never ending cycle. Our stuff can't make us happy. Instead, we should view money as a gift from God that we should use to buy what we NEED, not just what we WANT. And, we should find ways to bless others with our money.
8. (10 min) **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.
9. (5 min) **CLOSE:** Share prayer requests and pray as a class. Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: THANKFUL HEART VS. GIMMIE HEART CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Heart Craft template (page 5).
- Have them cut out each item.
- Have them color half the heart black and the other half red.
- Have them glue the word "Thankful" on the red side and the word "Gimmie" on the black.
- As a class, decide where each little heart should be glued, either on the thankful side or the gimmie side. Then have them glue each heart onto the proper side.

- Remind kids that the cure for the gimmies is to be thankful for what they already have.

Supplies needed:

Heart Craft template (pg. 5, 1 set per kid, Scissors, Crayons, Glue

Bonus Activity: "Telephone"

Have kids sit in a circle. Whisper the **Big Idea** in the ear of one kid. Have that kid whisper it to the kid on their right. Continue around the circle. Last kid has to say the message they heard.

OPTION 2: GIMMIE HEART VS. THANKFUL HEART GAME

Instructions:

- Before class, draw a large heart on the whiteboard with a line running down the middle. Place the Heart template (page 6) in a bowl or basket.
- Have kids come up and pull a heart from the bowl and have the teacher read it to the class. Decide if it sounds like something a thankful heart would say or what a gimmie heart would say. Tape each heart on the proper half of the heart.
- Continue until all the hearts are taped onto the heart.
- Remind the kids to fight the "gimmies" by being thankful.

Supplies needed:

Whiteboard/marker, Heart template (pg. 6, precut, 1 set per class), Bowl/Basket, Tape

Bonus Activity: "Memory Verse Game"

Say the memory verse as a class. Say it again while **hopping** on one foot. Say it again while **marching** in place.

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PursueGOD.org www.pursuegod.org/how-stuff-works-when-you-have-a-case-of-the-gimmies-kids/

Have you ever been really sick before, like: with a terrible cold, with the flu or with the chicken pox? It's no fun, right!? Have you ever heard of this disease: the "gimmies"?

The "Gimmies" Are When You Always _____ Stuff You Don't Really _____

It can have symptoms like these: you're walking through the toy store and you're always asking for more, you're at school and your friend has a new gadget and you just can't stand it or your little brother won't give you the remote so you can watch your show and you get really angry. Here's the problem with this terrible disease:

The "Gimmies" _____ Satisfy

When you come down with a case of the gimmies, it usually just gets worse and worse. If you don't treat it right away, it just might make you into a "gimme monster." You don't want that! So here's the good news: there is a cure!

The _____ For the "Gimmies" Is Being Happy With What God Has Given You

We may think we know what we want, but God really knows what is best for us. Stuff isn't the answer to being happy. We need to trust that God will give us the stuff we really need. Memory verse!

Philippians 4:19 *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*

So kids, talk to your parents or teacher if you think you might have a case of the gimmies. When you talk about it, you can fight this terrible disease. It'll take some time to get cured, but with God's help you can do it!

Answers: Want, Need, Never, Cure

Parent Signature: _____

Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Make a list of things kids really want, like cool gaming systems, clothes, phones, etc. Why do kids want those things?
3. Why can't our stuff make us happy?
4. What are some things God has given you? How can you show your parents (and God) how thankful you are for those things?
5. Read [Ecclesiastes 5:10-11](#). Why can't money make us happy? What's a better way to view money?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture.

THE CURE FOR THE
"GIMMIES" IS TO
BE THANKFUL

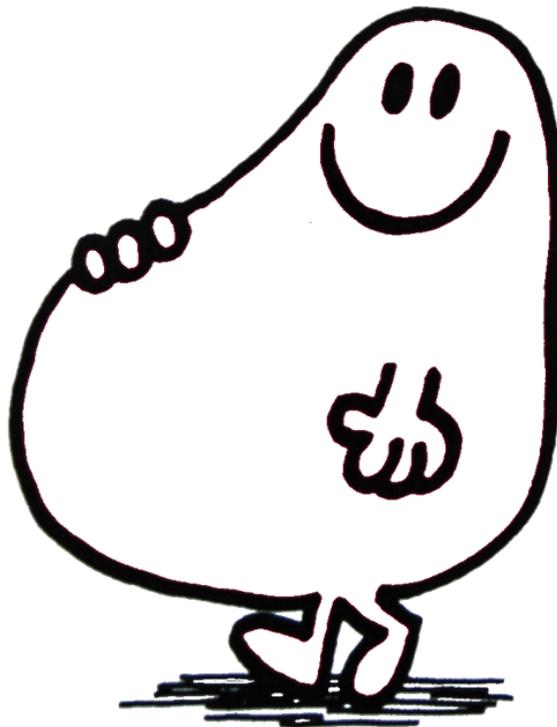
Key Question

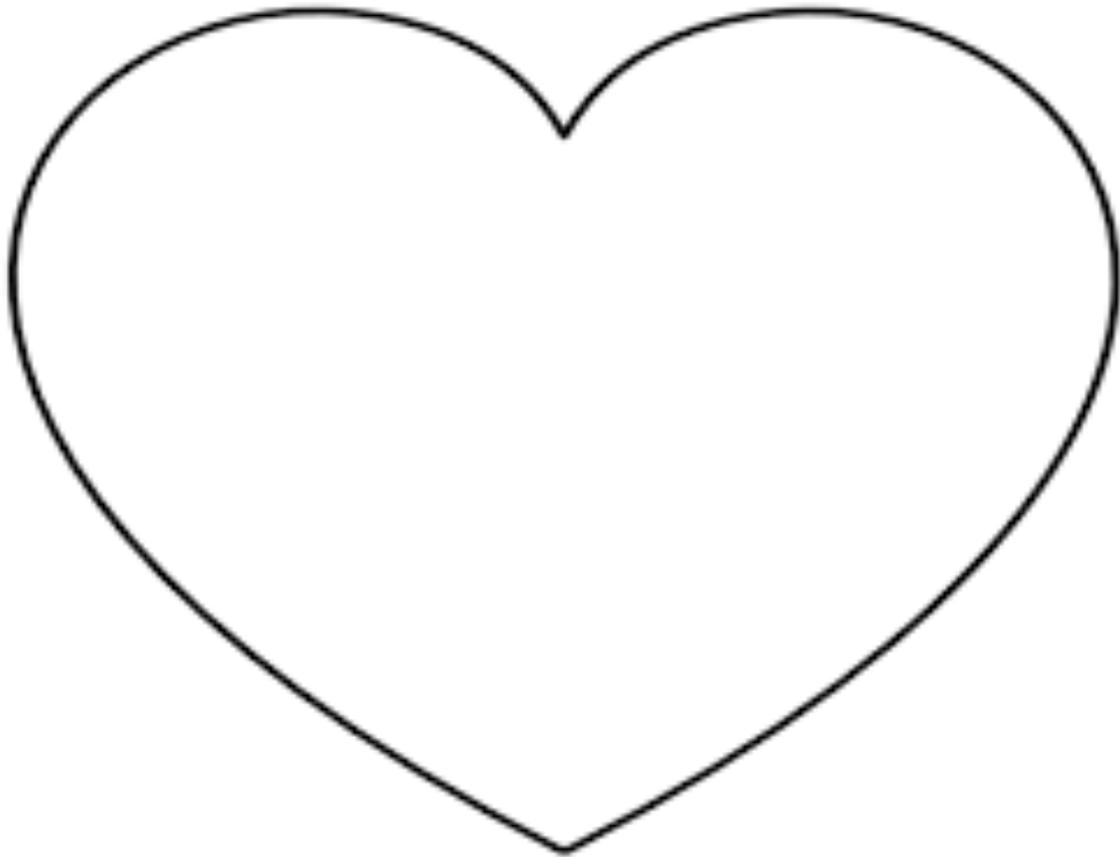
Why is greed bad for us?

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:19 "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

DON'T BE LIKE MR. GREEDY





WHAT I HAVE IS
GOOD ENOUGH

I LOVE MY TOYS/
GAMES

I DON'T NEED
MORE STUFF

EVERYONE ELSE
HAS IT

MY STUFF IS
STUPID

I DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH

THANKFUL

GIMMIES

I LIKE MY STUFF	WHAT I HAVE IS OLD
MY FRIEND ALWAYS HAS BETTER STUFF THAN ME	I HAVE PLENTY OF STUFF
I'M HAPPY FOR MY FRIEND WHO GOT A NEW THING	I WANT IT NOW!
I WANT A BIGGER HOUSE	GOD HAS BEEN SO GENEROUS TO ME