**Topic: Greed**

**Bible: Philippians 4:11-13**

Say: Today’s topic is greed.

Greed is when you have a strong desire to have more of something that you don’t need. Being greedy isn’t healthy because you’re always chasing after the next bigger or better thing. You’re never happy with what you have. People who are greedy also have a bad attitude. You don’t care if you hurt others to get what you want. You’re irritable, rude and impatient. You want it all and you want it right now. Instead of having an X-Box 360, you want a Wii. When you get the Wii, you only have 3 games. Now you want five games. But once you get 5 games, you want 10. The interesting thing about greed is the more you get, the more you want. Your desire for bigger and better is never satisfied!

Small Group Discussions: Talk about a time when you (or someone else you know) was greedy?

Say: God has a different way for us to live. Instead of being greedy God wants us to be content, which means to be happy with what we do have.

**Read Philippians 4:11-13**

Say: In this passage, Paul says he learned the secret of being content. What? We can do anything with God’s help, who gives us strength. Instead of thinking that the next bigger and better thing will satisfy, realize the key to happiness is to be content with what you do have. Ask God to give you the power to be content and He will. Focus on what you do have, not what you want.

Small Group Discussion: Why do you think it is easier to be greedy rather than content? How can being greedy be bad for you? How can being content be good?

Activity: Buy a few bags of candy that are individually wrapped. The number of candies should be about 5 times the amount of preteens playing the game. Put a piece of masking tape on the ground dividing the group in half. Throw on the ground an even amount of candy on each side of the masking tape. An even amount of players also goes on each side of the tape. On GO, players run to the opposing team’s side, grabbing up to three pieces of candy at a time and bringing the candy back to their side of the room. If tagged while on the opposing team’s side, players drop the candy in their hands and travel back to their side before picking up more candy. The team with the most candy on their side at the end of the game wins. Allow preteens to play for a few minutes and then end the game. Note: If players cheat during the game, let them. It is a part of the learning experience.

Say: The goal was to be greedy and grab as much candy as possible. Some of you were accused of grabbing more than three pieces of candy at a time. And if you played by the rules, you were probably at least tempted to grab more. Others were accused of not going back to your side when tagged. Chances are almost everybody was tempted not to go back when tagged. This game is a picture of what happens when you’re greedy. When you’re greedy, you are mean, fight and argue. Instead, learn to be happy with what you do have. Learn to rely on God’s power to be content.

End in prayer.