

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE NINTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS

ACTIVITY

FILLED TO THE BRIM

Materials: drinking glass, water, square of cardboard larger than the top of the glass, a pan

Practice this ahead of time. Fill the glass to the brim with water and cover with cardboard. With one hand on the bottom and the other on the cardboard, quickly flip the glass upside down. Holding the glass firmly in one hand, slowly slide your other hand out from under the glass, leaving only the cardboard holding the water in the glass. Even more dramatic is placing a square of wax paper over the water before the cardboard, and then after the glass is flipped, let the cardboard drop away so only the wax paper holds up the water.

Explain: **Being content is like this cardboard. It is holding up my satisfaction in each day. I feel full. When I see something—a new gizmo, someone else’s popularity, whatever—then I think I don’t have enough, and I want more.** (Dramatically lift only a tiny section of the paper. All the water will fall into the pan.) **When our thoughts are on what we don’t have, what happens to the satisfaction we do have? We quickly lose it!** Conclude: **Contentment is fragile. It can get lost in a second. The final commandments warn us about coveting or always wanting more. Most people think that having more will make you happier. Think of the water and glass you just saw. What God says and what the media says don’t match. If God fills you up with contentment, is it possible to be more content? (Discuss.) The most valuable possession anyone can acquire is free. Jesus’ forgiveness, new life, and salvation are free gifts. If we have these gifts, we really need nothing else.**