

# needs or Wants

## SCRIPTURE

"Your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:8

## Focus

We can depend on God to give us everything we need.

## Object Talk

I'd like everyone to stand and find a partner. Allow time for students to find partners. If needed, be a partner with a child. **Now follow me and do this clapping pattern.** Demonstrate the clapping pattern as you describe it. **First, tap your thighs. Then clap your hands and then tap the palms of your partner, before clapping hands and tapping your thighs again.** Allow time for partners to practice.

Now, when you tap your partner's hands, each of you say out loud something that kids your age **WANT** to have. Think of a few things ahead of time. Give partners time to name at least three or four items. **Now, when you tap your partner's hands, each of you say out loud something that kids your age NEED** to have. Give partners time to name at least three or four items. **Thank you!** Students sit down.

**What were some of the wants and needs you heard people say?** Allow time for students to respond. **Sometimes we get confused and think that our wants are things that we really need. We may think, "I really need that new toy." But, do we really need it, or do we just want it?**

**Of course, it's fun to think about the things we want. But it's also good to remember that God knows what we really need and will help us have what we need. Jesus says in Matthew 6:8 that "Your Father knows what you need before you ask**



Him." God may not always give us what we want, but He knows what is best for us and will always give us what we need.

## CONCLUSION

**Because God loves us, we can depend on Him to help us have the things we need.**

Close in prayer.

## Going the Extra Mile

### ACTIVITY

Let's play a game like Pictionary to help us think about the differences between the things we want and the things we need. Have a volunteer come forward and start drawing something he or she thinks is a need or a want. Other students try to guess what the item is. After each item is guessed, have students discuss whether they think it is a need or a want. Repeat activity as time permits.

### BIBLE DISCUSSION

Jesus told a big crowd of people about why they can depend on God to meet their needs. Let's see what He said. Have a student read Matthew 6:25-32 aloud.

- What are some of the ways God shows His care for birds and plants?
- What did Jesus say about God's care for us?
- When is a time a kid your age needs to remember God's care?

Jesus wanted us to know that our needs will be met. God takes care of the plants and animals, and He'll surely provide us with what we need.

### LIFE CHALLENGE

The next time you think about something you want, try to decide if it is a want or a need. Then remember that God loves you and will help you have the things that are best for you—whether they are wants or needs!

### PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your love. We praise You that we can depend on You to take care of each and every one of us. In Jesus' name, amen.