

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 23-29, 2020

“CONTENTMENT: LIVING SATISFIED IN A WORLD OF CONSUMPTION”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Have you ever bought something at the spur of the moment and regretted it? What was it? And why did you regret it?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Exodus 20:17. How would you define “covet” from this verse? List some things and/or categories which are often coveted. Why do you think people covet them? Why do you think God cares about covetousness?
2. *Discuss.* Consider these three things we do that lead to covetousness: (1) comparison, (2) hoarding, (3) “if only” game. Can you share specific examples when people (or you) do this?
3. Read Philippians 4:10-13. When you read about Paul’s view of contentment and the way the world views contentment, what do you think makes the difference? Have you ever experienced being truly “contented” in the biblical sense?
4. When Paul said that contentment is “learned,” what do you think are the real-life implications of “learning” it? Can you think or remember a situation in your life when you learned to be content? What was the specific lesson that God was teaching you?
5. *Discuss.* Is contentment better learned in poverty or in prosperity? Explain why you think so.
6. Contentment does not mean being lazy, mediocre or being a fatalist. In what ways can you distinguish the difference? (Think practical ways.)

7. *Share.* Are you growing in contentment? What area of your life do you see the biggest need for finding contentment? How has your relationship with Christ changed your attitude towards people, possessions and circumstances?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

Our ability to be content in any and every situation is ultimately connected with our relationship with Christ.

- I will be aware of areas that will cause me to be discontented.
- I will look to Christ for daily strength.
- I will trust God to meet my needs and not my greed..
- I will develop a heart of generosity.

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for sensitivity this week from covetousness. Pray to grow in contentment.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.