

10/18

HOME GROUP GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

LISTEN

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passages(s)



REFLECT

Prayerfully answer the questions below



DISCUSS

Meet with your group to discuss



RESPOND

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

BACKGROUND:

True contentment comes from dependence on Christ, not ideal circumstances. As a follower of Jesus, Paul has experienced both abundance and need, fullness and hunger. He has learned to be content in every circumstance - not by denying his needs or becoming indifferent to suffering. Rather, he experiences joy through knowing Christ is near.

Jesus is our enduring treasure, far greater than anything else. He gives us the strength to remain faithful in both prosperity and hardship. Contentment is a growing confidence that, because we belong to Christ, our present circumstances do not determine our ultimate well-being.

OPEN:

1. What's something you once thought would make you happier but soon started to feel ordinary (like a childhood Christmas present or a major achievement)? Why do you think it didn't satisfy you as much as you'd expected?

REFLECT:

2. Read Philippians 4:10-13. What is the "secret" that allows Paul to remain content in both abundance and need? Why do you think Paul says contentment is something he had to learn?

3. What does Paul mean when he says, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me”? How does this differ from many popular applications of this passage?

4. How is biblical contentment different from simply becoming indifferent to suffering? What does it look like to practice contentment intentionally in every circumstance?

APPLY:

5. Paul reflects on seasons when he experienced abundance. Have you ever had a time in life when you had “plenty” but still found it hard to feel content? What do you think made it difficult?

6. Can you think of a time when you felt you might not have what you needed, but God provided a sense of contentment? What did you learn from that experience?

7. When have you experienced genuine contentment? How did it affect your relationships, such as friendships, work, and family?

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