

The Giant Secret of Joy

A Journey with the Philippians



MARCH 10-12, 2018



Contentment / Sufficiency

This week we're learning about contentment, and we're learning how that contentment comes from God.

Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.

- Where do you find contentment?
- What makes contentment difficult to experience?
- When has someone in your group, community or family helped you experience more contentment?

WATCH THE VIDEO

NorthlandChurch.net/Studies

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



Hear God's Story and Create a New Story

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13 (ESV)

Read the passages together, and then discuss the following questions.

- What kinds of circumstances was Paul facing that threatened his contentment?
- What did the apostle Paul learn that helped him to be content, no matter the circumstance?

READ MATTHEW 6:28-34 (NIV)

- In this passage, what are the questions Jesus tells us we could ask that would threaten our contentment?
- Why does Jesus tell us we can set aside our worry?
- When it comes to questions of contentment, provision and sufficiency, what are some of the sources the world tells us to look to for our contentment?

- The word Paul used in his letter to the Philippians for content means being in a place in life where your needs are met. What are the things in your life that cause you to struggle with contentment?
- Over and over we can see the Scriptures teach us to look instead to God for our provision and contentment. What are some specific ways you can practically look to God instead of the world?
- How has your group helped you experience or see God’s sufficiency more clearly?

Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.

Find Your Story in God’s Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session’s theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses and try paraphrasing them: writing them in your own words. If you like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

All of us understand the temporary nature of the things in the world around us. Jesus doesn’t just offer us freedom from our sin; He also offers us freedom from the struggle of trying to meet our own lasting needs with the things of the world.

READ JOHN 6:35-40 (NIV)

- What’s the difference between regular bread and the Bread of Life Jesus is talking about?
- Where have you seen provisions God has made for you endure?
- Where do you need the Bread of Life to sustain you now?

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10 (NIV)

- Verse 10 tells us that “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” How does a love of money threaten our spiritual health? What are other things we can love that are similarly dangerous?
- When we are content in God’s provisions, how can we view money instead? In light of God’s sufficiency for us, how can we view all things in life?
- What did Jesus call us to love? (Look to Matthew 22:36-40.) How is that sort of love different from the love of money or power or other things?