

## **LIFE Group Discussion Guide**

Sermon Series: Joy in the Journey

Sermon Title: Learning Contentment in a Culture Programmed for Discontent

Sermon Text: Philippians 4: 10-23

Sermon Date: May 5, 2013

**Summary:** Paul closes this powerful, personal, prison-influenced letter with an exhortation to contentment, generosity and dependence upon God's rich provision for all of our needs. In our age of wealth, prosperity and the ever-present voice of materialism and consumerism, fueled by an unrelenting advertising industry, we need to hear and apply this message lest our faith wither in the face of our cultural values.

### **Discussion questions**

1. Where is Paul as he writes? Why is he content with where he is? How does one learn to be content in all circumstances?
2. Which is more difficult-to be content with a little or to be content with a lot?
3. How does advertising fuel discontent? What can we do about it?
4. What does it mean to have contentment in Christ?
5. The Philippians were generous. What do you think fueled their generosity? What should motivate us to be sacrificial in our giving and generous with our possessions?
6. What did Paul want them to know about their giving, in terms of God's disposition toward them and their giving?
7. Context is important in 4:19, an oft-quoted verse. What is its context? Will God meet all our needs all the time, or only when we are generous as the Philippians?
8. What is the measure of God's need-meeting? (According to their need, or according to his riches-and what's the difference?)
9. If not God, who or what do we (often) depend upon for our needs?
10. How do we better learn to depend upon Christ for our needs to be met?