

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 20 minutes

1. How did Paul respond when the Philippians expressed concern for his well-being? How do you usually respond to others when they express concern for you? Share about a time when you experienced a need and the concern of others for your need brought you great comfort.
2. What circumstances in our lives most often control or destroy contentment? What kinds of circumstances cause you to struggle with being content? What would it be like if we could regularly know and practice contentment, even when our lives are difficult? What is necessary for us to achieve this kind of contentment?
3. Paul offers a wonderful promise that draws on the inexhaustible supply of Christ's "glorious riches". What does this promise mean to you? What, if any, are the limits of this promise? If we haven't been faithful partners in financial giving to God's work as the Philippians were, can we claim this promise? In what sense is this promise part of the financial partnership outlined in this passage?

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Praise God for the gracious promises made to us in this passage. Thank Him for expressing His amazing love for us in Christ Jesus. Ask God to fill you with a contentment that comes only from Him. Ask God to help you: have an attitude of gratitude; seek to please Jesus; love people; and practice generosity.

Are there needs within the group today? Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers so you can see in future weeks where God is answering your prayers.

THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING *The Secret To Contentment*

Enemies of Contentment

Philippians 4:10-13

- Unrealistic EXPECTATIONS.
- Unfair COMPARISONS.
- Unnoticed BLESSINGS.
- Uncontrolled AMBITION.

The Secrets of Contentment

Philippians 4:14-20

- Attitude of GRATITUDE.
- Seek to please JESUS.
- Love people and show your CONCERN.
- Practice GENEROSITY.

Sunday, November 16, 2014

South Shores Church (949) 496-9331

Pastor Ty Guy

www.southshores.org

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of November 17-22, 2014

Getting Started.....Group time - 15 minutes

1. This is our last meeting of the fall *Growth Group* session. As a way to affirm and encourage those in your group, take a few minutes to do the "hot seat" exercise. Take turns affirming the positive attributes you see in each of your group members. You can finish either of these sentences – "I've learned to appreciate..." or, "I've learned to value..." followed by something you specifically appreciate or value in each person.
2. Share about a time when you were the recipient of someone's generosity. How did that example of giving and receiving impact your relationship? Where have you seen generosity change your own or another person's heart?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's Word.....Group time - 40 minutes

Read Philippians 4:10-20 (In preparation to answer questions)

1. Paul, though still in prison, was rejoicing, and was content in the most trying of circumstances. Read Philippians 4:6-9 and 4:13,19. From these verses what do you observe about Paul's contentment? What is the reason for or source of Paul's contentment?

2. Paul discusses both his gratefulness for and pleasure from the support he received from the Philippians. Why was Paul so glad that the Philippians gave and looked out for his needs? What do you see in this passage that might explain some of the feelings of intimacy and affection Paul had for the Philippian church?
3. One definition of contentment is, "loving what you have." Read 1 Timothy 6:5-10, and Hebrews 13:5. If contentment is a virtue, what do we learn from these verses about its corresponding sin?
4. Paul described his partnership with the Philippian church in terms of "giving and receiving." What did each party in this partnership give? What did each party receive? In what sense are the spiritual victories of Paul's ministry "credited" to his financial/spiritual partners?
5. What does Paul promise to the Philippians because of their financial support? How were the Philippians' financial gifts credited to their heavenly account? How was their giving linked to temporal blessings?