

# Study Guide - The Little Mermaid from 9-23-2018

**Key Scriptures:** “Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. ‘Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.’” Luke 6:36-38

- Philippians 4:10-13 “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
- Ecclesiastes 5:10 “He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.”
- Proverbs 15:6 “In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, But in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.”

## Start Talking:

- Pastor Jason said, “We are not by nature content people.” Do you agree? Share some examples in your life when you have been needlessly discontent. If you could have changed your attitude during those times, how would you have thought differently?
- Philippians 4: 11-12 reads, “I have learned in whatever state I am (in all circumstances), to be content: I know how to be abased (in need)...” How hard would this attitude be for most modern Americans? Discuss.
- Have you ever been to an impoverished part of the world? How does experiencing that impact the reality of your opinion of “need” or “wealth”? Share what you saw and how it affected you? Do you think everyone should experience traveling to an impoverished country?

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- Philippians 4: 12 says, “I know what it is to have plenty.” When you compare yourself to wealthier people, do you still consider yourself having plenty? ...plenty compared to what? Discuss.

## Start Thinking:

- Sometimes we despair about what we do not have. At those times, do we find ourselves saying, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”? Philippians 4: 13
- Pastor Jason said, “But sometimes in my life, I bet some on God... and set aside a backup plan just in case He doesn’t come through.” What is the difference between doing this and making prudent financial preparation for the future? Discuss.

## Start Sharing:

- Pastor Jason shared how much the Bible deals with money, as opposed to prayer and faith. How much time does the modern Christian spend obtaining, spending, and worrying about money as opposed to time spent praying and meditating in the Bible? Does life really demand this disparity? What does God want for you? Share.
- Pastor Jason said, “There is a difference between having money and money having you.” Share an example of “money having” a person.
- Do you think God does not want you to have enough money to live a good life? Discuss.

## Start Praying:

“Lord, considering the influence money has upon our lives, help us balance being good providers to our loved ones and preparing for our future, while not being a slave to it. Let us be content with Your perfect plan for us.”

## Start Doing:

- Read Luke 6:36-38. If verse 38 is true (and it is), why are people trying to have more and give less? Why can’t we trust God with our money?

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- Pastor Jason asked, “When you think about what God can do with your time, would you wish you would’ve spent it on something else?” Be honest. What can you do with your time now for God’s purposes?
- Pastor Jason said, “The Christian life is when you bet it all on God.” Make a list of some practical ways you can change your thinking and decision making to bet it all on God. Are you challenged by this thought at this time in your life? Share.