

Going Deeper

Finding a Foundation – Learning to be Content Nov 22 '20

Going Deeper is designed for use with your small group, a friend, or on your own. Its aim is to create time for you to spend with God and his word. Do as much or as little as you like. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of our pastoral staff.

1. **Pray** for each other, our church and our leaders, for personal and corporate renewal, and to allow God's word to transform us. **Share** a recent entry from your **Life Journal** with the group.
2. This Sunday we looked at the 10th commandment, which says, "you shall not covet... anything that belongs to your neighbour." This command speaks to the desire for, and the elusiveness of contentment. Paul talks about **learning** the **secret** of contentment. What **thoughts** or **questions** did the message raise for you? Which ones, **encouraged** you or posed a **challenge** to you?
3. To covet is to "desire wrongfully, **inordinately**, or without due regard for the rights of others." How is coveting different from **wanting**? How do you know when your "wanting" has moved to coveting? Have you ever wanted something/someone so bad, you were willing to do anything to get it?
4. **Read Phil 4:1-13; Ecc 5:10-12; 6:9; James 4:1-3.** According to James, what is the **source** of our discontent? Why do you think Paul suggests that contentment is a **secret**? Have you ever experienced going after something that you thought would bring contentment, only to discover it came up short? What do you suppose is the **deeper longing** behind your pursuit? Is it possible to be truly content?
5. How do you know if your contentment is **false**? See Phil 4:12.
6. Paul tells us that true contentment is **learned**, and we need to see coveting for what it really is – **idolatry**. Can you identify ways in which people have looked to something other than God for: joy, identity, affirmation, love? Where do you find that you tend to place your **functional trust** in something other than God?
7. How can reminding yourself of the **Gospel** help you in being content?
8. Take a moment of **silence** to consider how **God is speaking** to you. Is He asking you to make **changes** or to do something **new**? What concrete steps of **response** do you want to take? How can your group support you in these steps?

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