



**FROM THE BIBLE**  
Philippians 4:6-12 (NLT)

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## MESSAGE TO CONVERSATION GUIDE

Week 4 | The Blessing Thief

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1. In this message, Joel started out by talking about how he skipped going to an Orioles game when he was a kid. He was happy with his decision until he realized *he had missed out on* a hot dog that his brother got at the game. What's something that when you see someone else has it...you have that feeling of *missing out*?
2. This was a message about how discontentment is *The Blessing Thief*. As we started, we said, *sometimes we don't see OUR blessings because all we see are THEIR blessings*. What are some areas we do that in & how does steal our simple blessings?
3. Read Philippians 4:11-12. Paul said he had *learned the secret to being content in any and every situation*. What's the difference between being content *with* the situation and being content *in* the situation? Why is that important for us?
4. Read Philippians 4:9. In this message...we said, *the goal isn't to stop **chasing** contentment...it's to **practice** it*. What are ways that we can practice it? How does practicing something over time make something unnatural...eventually seem natural?
5. Read Philippians 4:6 & focus in on the word *petition*. A "petition" means *to make or present a formal request to **an authority** with respect to a particular cause*. What role does viewing God as the authority over our lives play in our contentment? Can you think of any examples from your life?
6. How can you *practice the petition* in your life so you experience more contentment?
7. Read Philippians 4:8. Joel said that this verses sets us up to practice *pivoting to the "whatever"*. What are the "whatevers" Paul lists? Pick something that you often are discontent with and give an example of how pivoting to one of the listed "whatevers" could help your contentment.
8. As we wrapped up this message, Joel said, *contentment won't be in your next season if you can't find it in the present*. Do you often look to what's next, hoping for contentment & miss looking at what you have to be content in now?
9. What has been your biggest takeaway from this message or series so far?