

ENOUGH
"Enough Stuff"
February 28, 2016

1. Why do I always want more?

- * I'm convinced having more will make me more happy

"He who loves money shall never have enough. The foolishness of thinking that wealth brings happiness!" Ecclesiastes 5:10-11
(LB)

- * I'm convinced having more will make me more secure

"The rich man thinks of his wealth as an impregnable defense, a high wall of safety. What a dreamer!" Proverbs 18:11 (LB)

- * I'm convinced having more will make me more important

"Be on your guard against greed in any shape or form. For a man's real life in no way depends on the number of his possessions." Luke 12:15 (Ph)

2. What happens if I always want more?

"True godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows."

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NLT)

3. How can I stop always wanting more?

"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV)

"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalm 103:2-5 (NIV)

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

"Christ gives me the strength to face anything."

Philip 4:13 (CEV)

Leadership Tip!

If you want to build stronger relationships in your Life Group.....
Consider attending the Coastal 201, 301 and 401 classes together as a group.
Doing this will bring to light hidden similarities that members of your group have.

Enough “Enough Stuff”

STARTER QUESTIONS:

What are some of the things in your life that make you the happiest?

What would you consider to be “too much”?

MAIN IDEA:

God wants us to be content even when we feel under resourced. When we don't have enough money, God wants us to turn to him to get us through these situations. When we learn that money isn't what we needed anyway, it was just Him, we will find peace and a spiritual strength we have never had before.

Why do we always want more?

What are some of the things you want more of now?

Often the desire for more is really a need to feel more secure or more important. There is nothing wrong with feeling secure, being important or being wealthy. Pastor Hank mentioned how we can become “possessed by our possessions”. We forget that all of our “stuff” is a blessing from God. We become enamored with wanting more.

What is one possession that you would say is the most valuable to you?

Key Scripture:

“True godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.”

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One of the things Paul says here is that those who are caught up in the pursuit of more have “wandered from the faith”. They stray from spiritual growth and desire material growth.

How can money affect your faith?

The best way to prevent possessions or money from influencing our faith is to learn to be content. Being content not only teaches us to be happy in what we have, but it will also make us recognize everything that God blesses us with. Learning to be content involves applying a different perspective on how we rationalize decisions regarding material possessions.

How to practice being content:

Instead of:

“I deserve this”

“I need this”

“This will make me feel better”

“But it’s on sale”

Try:

“I deserve to be out of debt”

“Is it need and greed”

“Will this make me financially secure”

“NO”

EXERCISE:

What are some ideas on how to practice being content with these statements:

“If we stretch we can make the payments”

“It seems like everybody else has one of these”

“Ok ok – I just want it”

“If I don’t buy it now, I won’t ever get it...”

FINAL THOUGHTS:

**What is one area that you think God is trying to teach you a lesson on possessions?
How can our group pray for you as you walk through this?**

EXERCISE: Scripture reading and meditation:

(NOTE: Write the following scripture on a card and have everyone in the group take turns reading it)

“Christ gives me the strength to face anything.” - Philip. 4:13 (CEV)

Let’s close by saying this together:

“God’s current provision for my life is enough.”

CLOSE IN PRAYER

FAMILY FOCUS

This lesson is all about helping kids understand the importance of focusing our attention on the Lord and His will in our lives, instead of worldly things...or anything that might take us away from Him. Place a wad of cash on the countertop in the kitchen. Across the room, place a Bible. Have the kids start on one side of the room (the closest to the money) and without taking their eyes off the money, have them to find their way to the Bible.

Typically, the kids will bump into things, hurt themselves, get lost on their way to find the Bible- in any case, it will be difficult and take longer than if they had walked straight to the Bible without their eyes on the money. They have to do a little searching.

Ask the children why the task was more difficult than it would have been if their focus was on the Bible, instead of the money.

READ MARK 10:17-24

Explain that we cannot enter the kingdom of God (represented by the Bible) if we focus our attention on worldly possessions (represented by the money).

Ask your family to listen for the answer to the question "What blessings are more important than material possessions?" while they read Luke 12:31-34

Why do many people set their hearts on worldly wealth even though they know it is only temporary and how can we determine if we are too concerned with worldly possessions?

Sometimes it is hard to see beyond this life, if we lack faith. We lose track of our Eternal goals and we begin to seek the things of this world that we think will make us happy right now. Talk about how anytime we put the things of the world, or activities before our church responsibilities or before the Lord's will in our lives, we are choosing these things over the Kingdom of God.

Discuss "What has the Lord asked you to sacrifice and how have you been blessed for making these sacrifices?"

When I hear the story about the man that could not leave his worldly possessions behind, I often feel sad for him. However, we discuss how that story can apply in our lives with the little things, like the shows we watch on TV, the music we listen to, the words we say, how we treat others, what we do with our time, etc.

Make goals to do things differently so that we can make sure that our focus, individually AND as a family, is more on the Lord and His plan for us in our lives.