

The Dangling Carrot

“ How to Find Contentment in Everyday Life - Part 2 ”

1. Remember Things are Always Changing



2. Deepen Your Devotion to Jesus

Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. **PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).**

HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

To learn more or join a group, visit pacificcoastchurch.org/gg

Point #1

- Read Philippians 4:12. Given Paul's many ups and downs in life, how does this relate to the truth of Point #1?
- Why is this important when it comes to battling discontentment? What happens if this isn't recognized?
- How does the 'comma vs. period' illustration that Pastor Mark presented help? How will you apply it this week?

Point #2

- Read Philippians 4:13. What is Paul's secret for finding contentment? What does this practically mean?
- How does Point #2 tie into this truth? What does this ultimately imply about spiritual growth and contentment?
- As you consider an area of discontentment in your life, how will you step into Point #2 this week? Be specific.

Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.

A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons.

MONDAY // Read Philippians 4:12, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

- What about Paul's perspective on his many struggles and level of contentment speak to you? Why?
- Given that true contentment is "learned" and not earned, how does this adjust your current perspective?
- List one specific situation where you're struggling with contentment? What is God teaching you?

TUESDAY // Read Philippians 4:12, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

- Given the different experiences Paul journeyed through, what does that imply about lasting circumstances?
- How can this perspective help prevent discontentment? What can happen if this isn't recognized?
- How does the 'comma vs. period' illustration Pastor Mark presented help? How will you apply it this week?

WEDNESDAY // Read Philippians 4:13, Matthew 6:25-33, 1 Timothy 6:6

- What is Paul's "secret" to finding contentment? How does this relate to his instruction in 1 Timothy 6:6?
- What did Jesus teach regarding the same issue? (c.f. Matthew 6:25-33) How can this easily get overlooked?
- List the things you spend most your day pursuing. How is your contentment level? How will you adjust?

THURSDAY // Read Philippians 4:13, 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

- In what way did Paul demonstrate a Philippians 4:13 approach to a physical struggle? What was the result?
- What does this reveal about where lasting contentment can be found? How is this different than the world?
- How does this ultimately relate to spiritual growth? What will you do today to apply a Philippians 4:13 approach?

FRIDAY // Read Philippians 4:13, Acts 16:16-26

- How did Paul immediately respond to a very challenging situation? How would you have responded?
- What was the result of Paul's response? What do you think would have been the result of your response?
- Take some time right now and bring your areas of discontentment to the Lord. Journal your experience.

SATURDAY // Read Philippians 4:13, Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 34:10, 107:8-9, Matthew 5:6

- Scripture says that God is the One who can ultimately satisfy our soul. Why? How does being the Creator relate?
- What does that imply about anything else being able to provide lasting satisfaction? How does this help?
- Because culture is built on the perpetual discontentment, what steps will you take to avoid the trap?

MEDITATION VERSE: *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:12-13