

Peace Forgiveness Contentment

Contentment in an age of dissatisfaction

Small group questions

Leaders - if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer - please contact bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au

1. What is contentment? Are *you* content?
2. Where do most Australians look for or expect to find contentment? Share any personal experiences or observations where the relentless pursuit of more led to discontentment or other negative outcomes.

The trap of wanting more

3. Why do so many Australians play lotto or gamble using other means, when the odds of winning are so short? What do you think drives our constant desire for "just a little bit more," despite having our essential needs met?
4. What sort of dangers are there in doing just about *anything* to have that little bit more? (see 1 Timothy 5:9-10)
5. What does Paul say (1 Timothy 6:10) is the root of kinds of evil? What does he mean?
6. Why have so many older Australians, who've "made it" in life, come to that point where they've asked the question "is this all there is?"

The joy of knowing Jesus

7. What does Paul in Philippians 4:1-13, say in the key to learning contentment?
8. What does the writer to the Hebrews in ch 13:4-6 is the key to being content?
9. Read what Paul suggests Timothy pursue in place of the love of money in 1 Timothy 6:11 and discuss what difference this makes in a person's life and to their level of contentment?
10. How does a relationship with God help someone who has no money, to be content?
11. How does a relationship with God help someone who has achieved a lot of success in life and yet is asking "is this all there is?" and "what is life all about"?
12. How can focusing on our relationship with Jesus help us avoid the trap of constantly wanting more?
13. Why did Mark say in the sermon "we're not on about religion here"?
14. If true contentment is found in Jesus, how can we, as believers, better communicate or demonstrate this to those seeking contentment in other places?
15. Discuss the impact of the series and please report back to Mark if you have other ideas for topics which might be similarly helpful.

End the session with a time of prayer. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be seeking contentment outside of Jesus. Pray for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the joy found in knowing Him. Thank the Lord for the joy of knowing Jesus and the contentment which is ours by walking in close relationship with him.