

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The 10 Series – Week 2 // Live with conTENTment

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1 Timothy 6:6 and others

Community Groups are the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering. It is through the interaction that takes place in each of these groups that will enable people to begin moving from being drawn to God to a life that is being deepened by God. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

All of us can relate to having way too much stuff, but most of us never think about what spiritual clutter looks like. In Week 2 of the 10 series, Pastor Paul walked us through a variety of Scriptures showing us God's plan to battle stuff by living with contentment, and along the way he pointed out three benefits of being content:

1. **Contentment keeps us free.** Of course, the only way we can be made free from the selfish desires of our sinful hearts is by surrendering our lives to Jesus, but once we do that, being content with him alone help to keep our hearts free of all the spiritual clutter and distractions.
2. **Contentment helps us focus.** It's not rocket science, but more distracts and less doesn't. Simply ridding ourselves of all the noise around us is enough to reveal what really matters most. His name is Jesus.
3. **Contentment gives us flexibility.** Have you ever felt like God gave you the opportunity to do something great for him but you were so over-extended that you couldn't say yes? When we live lives of contentment, we intentionally live with less so that we can do more for Jesus. It's called creating margin, and having margin in our lives gives us the flexibility to say yes to God moments.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What was one helpful, eye-opening, or troubling insight or principle from this week's message?
- Take a few minutes at the beginning of your group to talk through what everyone is discovering about God and themselves in the 4 spiritual disciplines we're developing during the 10 series (**10 minutes in the Bible, 10 percent in our giving, 10 nights in community and 10 conversations about our Bible readings**).
- John 10:10 says that Satan's nature is to take. John 3:16 says that God's nature is to give. If 1 is always taking and 10 is always giving, where would you place yourself?
- Using the same scale (1 for not very and 10 for a lot), allow each person in the group to rate themselves on living with contentment.
- A lot of times we confuse being content with being lazy or having no motivation to be better. How would you describe the difference?
- How can margin help us live with more contentment?
- What steps can you take (or have you already taken) to create more margin in specific areas of your life?
- Remember this week's Big Idea: **When we say yes to the best, we can say no to the rest.**
- Have you received the 10/10/10 reading plan? How are you doing with the readings? What have you learned so far this week?

Encourage each person in your group to take advantage of the special site that we've set up for the 10 series. They can access tools and read daily encouragement at www.thegatheringnow.com/ten.