

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

David said most people believe they'd be happier if they had just a little more money. How would you complete this sentence: "I'd be happier if I had just a little more _____."?

OR

David said Philippians was his favorite book in the Bible. What's yours and why?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Read Philippians 4:10-20.

What most stood out to you from David's message?

How have you interacted or struggled with the "Monster of More"? Can you describe either a time in your life or a specific circumstance where you wrestled with the "Monster of More"?

INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

In Philippians 4:11-12, Paul says he has learned to be content in all his circumstances. He has both abounded and he has faced hunger and need.

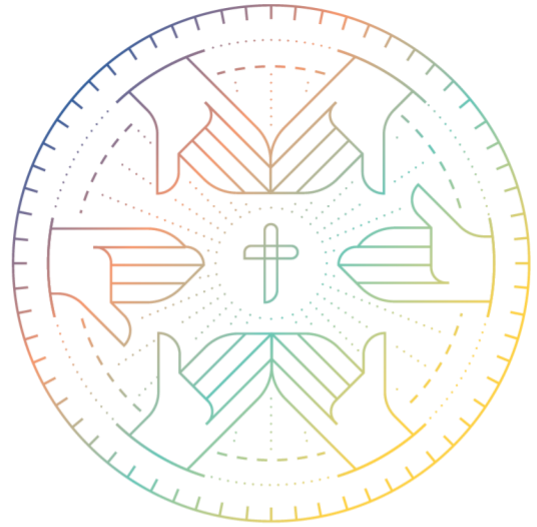
- Can you think of circumstances where Paul abounded?
- Can you think of circumstances where he faced hunger and need?

Discuss the truths which allowed Paul to find "rest in his heart" no matter what the circumstance.

Host Guidance: In 2 Cor. 11, Paul says, "I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and

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have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked." Yet he was content, at rest in his heart! He also experienced abundance through the closeness of God, the support and encouragement of so many friends and co-workers, and the fruit that the Gospel was producing as he shared it from place to place.

Read 1 John 2:16. The world wants us to be distracted by these three things:

A. Desires of the Flesh:

1. What do you think the "desires of the flesh" refer to in this verse?
2. How can the pursuit of wealth be related to the desires of the flesh?

B. Desires of the Eyes:

1. What might the "desires of the eyes" entail?
2. How does the desire for material possessions and wealth fit into this category?

C. Pride of Life:

1. What is meant by the "pride of life"?
2. How can the pursuit of riches lead to sinful pride?

APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

David presented five ways to break trust in money:

1. Spend less than you earn.
2. Reduce living to 80% of income.
3. Avoid the use of debt.
4. Build margin (savings).
5. Set long-term goals.

How are you doing with these five things? Which one currently presents the greatest challenge to you?

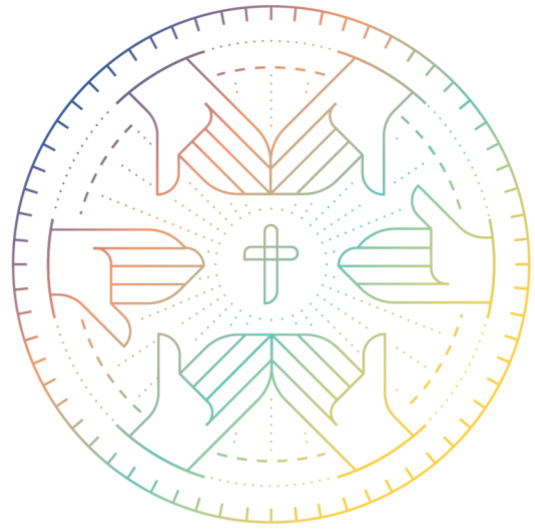
Read 1 Timothy 6:8. Perhaps this verse sounds obsolete in our modern world. How can we still apply this verse to our contemporary life? Share your experience in how God has supplied your "food and clothing."

Discuss within your group how you can:

- Find contentment by learning to trust God about money.
- Learn to be content by learning to be thankful for all you have.
- Find contentment through learning to be generous with what we have.

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PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Our Savior and Lord Jesus, we understand the deceitfulness of riches and how easy it is to become a slave to more. We desire to remain vigilant, prioritizing Your kingdom, cultivating contentment, and practicing generosity to guard against the allure of wealth. Help us to remember that our true treasure lies in our relationship with You and the eternal rewards You promise to those who seek You first. Amen.