

SATISFIED

July 10 - 21 // discovertheword.org



Author and pastor Jeff Manion observes that we live in “a consumer-driven, debt-ridden, advertisement-saturated culture,” and that it takes immense intentional effort for a follower of Christ to swim against the current of our culture’s materialism. Join regular Discover the Word group members Mart DeHaan and Elisa Morgan as they welcome Jeff Manion to the table for ten conversations based in passages of Scripture that can help us discover contentment in a world of consumption.



THIS WEEK’S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What’s the danger of living without contentment spiritually? Mentally? Relationally? Read Philippians 4:11–13. Was there a time in your life when you learned to be content in a situation?
- Can you think of an occasion when your satisfaction was crippled because you compared your situation with someone else’s?
- What are the dangers to our faith that come from a life marked by comparison?
- Take some time and make a lengthy list of the blessings that surround you. What does that experience do for you?
- Did you have any early life experiences that caused you to base your identity on what you owned or acquired or what you could do?
- How can a thorough understanding of our spiritual adoption, redemption, and sealing from Ephesians 1 influence your quest for contentment?
- Would you agree that the enemy of generosity is often fear and/or a lack of trust, and not stinginess?
- What do you think is the basis of that fear and lack of trust? Read 1 Timothy 6:18–19. How can greater generosity lead us into greater contentment?



CHALLENGE

Go through your closet and drawers and count your shirts and pairs of shoes. Count every single item. Write the number down on a piece of paper. What did you discover? This exercise is not intended to inspire guilt (although you may feel some), but to simply aid you in seeing how easy it is to accumulate more than enough. Do you detect any patterns in your world of accumulation?



COMMIT TO MEMORY

“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” (Philippians 4:12).



PRAYER

Father, I realize how easy it is to forget that everything I have comes from You. Help me to remember in seasons of need that my ultimate security is in my relationship with You. And in seasons of plenty, deliver me from the illusion that I did this alone, without Your guidance and without Your blessing. Lord, may I never forget that I am Your treasured child. Amen.

