

# Oak Valley Baptist Church

GOD OWNS IT ALL • LIVE •

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13; 1 TIMOTHY 5:8; 6:6-10, 17; HEBREWS 13:5 • 10/3/2021

## MAIN POINT

The kind of lifestyle we will lead is the biggest choice we'll make in terms of our finances.

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Have you ever tried to define “enough” in your life? How do you define it?**

**Are you content with your present lifestyle? Why or why not?**

**Why do you think it's so difficult for most of us to be satisfied with what we have right now?**

The biggest piece of the pie diagram—live—is the hardest one for most of us to keep a proper perspective on. Whether we have a big pie or a small one, making intentional choices in the “live” wedge can bring about heart change and a feeling of contentment. In the video, Ron taught that in order for us to be content with what we have, it's necessary to wrestle with the question, “How much is enough?”

| WATCH THE SESSION 3 VIDEO FEATURING RON BLUE.

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| INVITE A VOLUNTEER TO READ PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13.

**What do you think is the process for learning contentment? What habits or perspectives cultivate contentment?**

**What does God's strength have to do with being content?**

**Ron talked about the paradox of prosperity: The more you have, the more choices you have; therefore, the more confusing life becomes. Do you agree with Ron's paradox of prosperity? Explain.**

## **Why do most of us live as if we are the exception to this rule?**

Paul defined contentedness as a self-sufficiency that grows out of our trust in Christ. The various circumstances Paul had experienced—having much and having little—had taught Paul how to be content. In choosing to be entirely dependent on Christ, Paul was empowered to remain satisfied and faithful through the fluctuations of his life.

| INVITE A VOLUNTEER TO READ 1 TIMOTHY 5:8; 6:6-10, 17.

## **What do these verses teach you about a biblical worldview?**

**Do you think there's a single definition of an appropriate Christian lifestyle that applies to all believers? Explain.**

From these verses, Ron shared three insights about an appropriate Christian lifestyle: provision, contentment, and enjoyment. Provision in that we're commanded to provide for our families. Contentment in that God wants us to have the necessities of life. Enjoyment in that we can revel in God's abundance, creativity, majesty, and glory.

**How can you apply these standards to your life? Why is it a struggle for most of us to apply them?**

| INVITE A VOLUNTEER TO READ HEBREWS 13:5.

**How does this verse inform you about how to live appropriately within the "live" wedge of your pie chart?**

**What reason does this verse give for being satisfied with what we have?**

**Name one or two of your most pressing financial fears. Which of those fears are too big for God to help you with? What needs to happen for you to believe that God is bigger than all your fears?**

The context of the admonition to keep your life free from the love of money was brotherly love within Christian community (v. 1). This reminds us that there are no independent financial decisions. What we decide about our lifestyle impacts the other pieces of the pie—how much we give, what we owe, and how much we grow. Subsequently, our lifestyle decisions impact our relationships by demonstrating our commitment to the greatest commandments—to love God and to love people.

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**How do you feel about the size of your “live” wedge? How would you describe the interdependence of your financial decisions inside the “live” wedge of your pie diagram?**

**What would being content free you to be and do for God’s kingdom?**

**Name some specific ways you can enjoy the things God has given you today or this week.**

## PRAYER

Thank God for richly providing exactly what you need. Invite Him to grow your trust and contentment in Him alone.

## COMMENTARY