



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

November 26-27, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

What's The Big Deal? – Week 4 (Contentment)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Contentment is a big deal!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

**Deuteronomy 8:16
1 Timothy 6:8-10**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Slogan Showdown"

Your students surely consumed a lot of television over Thanksgiving break. It's time to test their knowledge of slogans/brands! Split the students into smaller groups or play the game student vs. student style. Whoever gets the highest score wins!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

For you personally, what is the ONE food that needs to be served at Thanksgiving? Without this food, it just WOULDN'T BE THANKSGIVING!

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

What's The Big Deal? – Week 4 (Contentment)

November 26-27, 2022

What's up everybody?! Welcome to Northview Students and to our final week of our "What's The Big Deal?" series. I have an observation that I want to share with you. We live in a "more" world. We live in a world where it feels like you can have more, should have more, should do more, get more, give more – you get the idea.

Because of that, we seem to be scared of another word: that word is "enough." How do we live as if we have ENOUGH in this world? Today, our message is about contentment, which simply means being satisfied with what you have. In other words, having enough is enough. As we've moved through this series, each message has had a **THP (Take Home Point)** and we have filled in the blank for this sentence: "_____ is a big deal." Here it is for this week...

Contentment is a big deal!

The word contentment definitely has a lot of similarities to our message last week on gratitude. Do we live our lives as if we have all we need, or do we live constantly chasing after the things we THINK we need?

(Teacher's Note: Share a personal example where you pursued something that required a lot of time/effort and ultimately didn't fulfill you.)

On the one hand, my story shows that it's not bad to pursue a goal, a dream, or excellence in a particular area. However, if it becomes all-consuming, then achieving it still won't satisfy you.

Larry Bird and Magic Johnson were the two of the best basketball players in the NBA during the 1980s. They were rivals and constantly tried to outdo the other and their teams hated each other. During an interview after he retired from basketball, Larry Bird shared that he tried to shoot 700 jump shots per day during his workout. After he got to 700, he would grab his stuff and get ready to leave the gym. Then, all of a sudden, he would stop and think, "Man, I bet Magic is shooting 800 today!" He would turn right back around and then shoot even more because he didn't want Magic to be practicing harder than he was practicing. He was never content as a player as long as he was competing against Magic.

To some degree, a lack of contentment can drive you to be better in the case of Larry Bird. However, a lack of contentment can also bring a lot of shame or guilt. It can make you feel like you will never be good enough, no matter how hard you try. Have you ever felt that way before? Maybe with your grades or the sports you play? It's like you can't ever live up to the expectations of others. Let me give you an example...

THE MESSAGE

In the world of musical theater, there is an opera called *The Magic Flute* written by Mozart. The opera contains one of the hardest pieces of music for a soprano singer. Opera singers are often the target of very harsh criticism and this piece of music is so challenging and so well-known that if you nail the entire opera and mess up one part of that song, critics will point out the flaws instead of the good parts. Many great singers have had unfair criticism directed toward them simply because the toughest song wasn't perfect even though the rest of their performance was great.

A lack of contentment with simply doing your best in this situation can lead to shame or hyper-criticism of yourself. In the eyes of the critic, it's about having a perfect performance; it's not about being a great singer. When you chase perfection, it's never enough.

You see, the enemy of contentment is this phrase: "If I had THAT, then I would be happy." The reason it's the enemy of contentment is because there will ALWAYS be another THAT – it never ends. So, let's bring this to our faith – let's bring this idea of contentment to God and our relationship with Him. We're going to look at the Old Testament passage from Deuteronomy chapter 8 that we have been focusing on for the last several weeks. There is one particular verse that can teach us something about contentment.

Let's look at Deuteronomy 8:16 together – *"He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you."*

Let's focus on that word "manna." When the Israelites would wake up in the morning, the ground would have dew on it, almost like a frost on the grass during a fall morning. The dew would look like these little paper-thin wafers (imagine the thinnest cereal flake you can think of) and they tasted a little bit like honey. In fact, the word "manna" in Hebrew literally means, "What is it?" They were like, "What is this stuff?!" Manna was tiny, thin flakes to eat – not exactly a filling meal. The Israelites were instructed to eat only the manna they gathered each day – no more, no less.

Check this – they did this every day FOR 40 YEARS! 40 years, y'all!! Through this whole process, God was teaching the Israelites what it meant to be content...to have enough.

Do you find yourself struggling with being content? Do you find yourself wanting more of something? More money, more popularity, more friends, more freedom. I can definitely relate.

(Teacher's Note: Share a personal example of you chasing after one of these things and lacking contentment in your life.

However, the Scripture tells us God is the one who takes care of us and gives us what we need. God is all we need and all we need is God! In the New Testament, 1 Timothy 6:8-10 says this: *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."* In Matthew 6 when Jesus is teaching his disciples to pray, one of the things he tells them to say to God in prayer is this phrase: *"Give us today our daily bread."* In other words, "God, just give me what I need for today."

THE MESSAGE

Let's look at our **THP (Take Home Point)** one more time: **Contentment is a big deal!** Do you struggle with feeling content in life? Do you feel dissatisfied with how things are going? Do you wish you had more? Do you struggle being content because you always feel like you have to live up to the expectations of others? These are all common struggles. In fact, this is why it's important for us as Christians to live out our faith in community because it's usually other people who see our lack of contentment before we see it. Plus, it's good to share our struggles with others and not live this life alone.

Students, please hear me – God is enough. Don't ever think that you need something in addition to God to be happy. Just like God helped the Israelites understand that manna was all they needed and to never take it for granted. Here's the challenge for all of us – may we never take for granted the "manna" in our own life.

God has given you exactly what you need, and He has a plan and a purpose for your life. Contentment is a hard thing to come by, but when you truly feel satisfied with God and His love for you, then you don't need anything else. God is enough. His love is enough. His "manna" in your life is enough. In a world of excess and more and better, God offers us something so much better; Himself. God is enough; He is more than enough. Let me pray for all of you as we wrap up this series today.

(Teacher's Note: Pray and then close out the message)

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

***Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP today and why was it important to the message?

Are you the type of person who feels you are content or have enough...OR...are you the type of person that always wants more or thinks there is more? Why?

Does someone remember what "manna" was in the passage from Deuteronomy 8? Why was it significant to the Israelites?

Let's read the words of Paul in 1 Timothy 6:8-10 from the New Testament. Would someone read that for us?

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

Paul says to be content with food and clothing, Moses tells the Israelites to be content with manna, and Jesus commands his disciples to tell God in prayer, "Give us today our daily bread." Why is it important to ask God daily for what we need vs. just one prayer to get what we need for all-time?

Is there a part of your life where you need more contentment? If so, what is it and why did you choose that area of your life?

How can we as a group help each other to live lives of contentment?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game slides and/or videos
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister