

# Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

## Cultivating Contentment

### 1 Timothy 6:1-10

#### Start It: Connecting with each other

1. Have you ever experienced a significant financial or social injustice? As a Christian how did you respond? Did the fact that you are a Christian alter your response?
2. Would you say that you are a 'content' person? What would you say you needed before you could say you had enough and would be happy?

#### Study It: Connecting with God's Word

1. [6:1-2a] How would the Gospel message of freedom from bondage been welcomed by the slaves? How would they have understood the message particularly when their owners were Christians? What is Paul's general principle and how does he apply it to the slaves?
2. [6:2b] What are "these things" that Timothy is to "teach and preach [urge]"?
3. [6:3-5] These verses contain a condition and a result ("if-then" clauses). Identify the condition (3 things in the "if" clause) and result (at least 5 things in the "then" clause). Why does teaching a false doctrine produce these results?
4. [6:5b-6] Why are false teachers often connected with (questionable) financial gain (compare Acts 20:30-35 with 2 Peter 2:1-3)? Instead, what should be desired and what attitude is required to obtain it?
5. [6:7] Notice the "for" that begins the verse. This verse gives the reason for Paul's previous statement (v. 6). What is the statement and what is the reason? Why is the desire for material things ultimately irrational? What does such an unhealthy desire in a person reveal of their belief-system.
6. [6:9-10] What warning does Paul give and what happens to those who ignore the warning?
7. [6:10] How is this verse often misquoted? Compare carefully the KJ version of this verse to a modern translation (NIV, NASB). What two things happen to people who have an unhealthy desire for wealth? Is one worse than the other?

#### Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. Based on vv. 1-2, what should our attitude be towards our employer? Why is this important? Does your relationship change if he or she is a Christian?
2. To the false teachers, Christianity was viewed as a means to an end. Have you ever been tempted to view your faith as a "cost-benefit" – that is, although it costs something, the benefit is a better life on earth and eternal life to come? Why is this way of thinking wrong?
3. Do you struggle with being content with the situation and life that God has given you? Does Paul's teaching encourage you?
4. How does the desire for money and financial independence affect your relationship with God? Would food and clothing for you and your family be sufficient?