



A LIFE WORTH LIVING- CONTENTMENT

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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APRIL 15, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: Everyone wants to be happy. When you're happy, life is sweeter, your outlook on the future is brighter, the glass is always half full. God wants you to have hope and a positive outlook, too, but in a way that supersedes the human formula for "happiness." He wants us to experience supernatural contentment.

2. DISCUSSION:

Philippians 4:11-13 [ESV]

"...I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Through the Holy Spirit's guidance, Paul found the secret to feeling content with his life, no matter what it looked like. It wasn't a switch that flipped instantly - it was a process.

Q. When Paul says in verse 12 "I have learned," in what sorts of ways do you think he was taught?

Q. Paul wrote this letter nearly 30 years after deciding to follow Jesus. How long do you think it took him to grow to the place where he could write these words truthfully?

3. CHALLENGE:

Paul may have been content with his life, but most outsiders looking in at his life would call it difficult at best. It's hard to understand how someone who was repeatedly rejected, beaten, and threatened could write about contentment, but that's just the point - God's contentment bypasses our logical understanding. It may not make sense to others, but when it's you... it just works.



Q. What are 3 things you would change about your life today?

Q. Is contentment and thankfulness for your life- just as it is - easy for you to feel and express, or is it a challenge right now?

Q. Learning contentment means seeing your life through God's worldview. What can you do this week to strengthen that worldview in your mind & heart?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for the good in your life... and for the challenges that help you to learn true contentment. Ask the Holy Spirit to develop His worldview in you more and more, so you can be content under any circumstances.



“YOLO-LESSONS FROM MORDECAI”

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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APRIL 15, 2018

1. POWER VERSE: Galatians 6:9 *“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”*

What’s Up: “God Will Honor Those Who Do What’s Right!”

This week, we start a brand new series called, “You Only Live Once”, or “YOLO.” We’re learning some important lessons about making our lives count! Since we only live once, we need to make sure we do our very best to honor God with our life and remain faithful to Him.

2. DISCUSSION:

In the Bible Story this week, we learned from a man named Mordecai in the book of Esther. We learned from his example of caring for others, doing the right thing no matter what, and remaining faithful to God.



Q. What are some ways you can show others you care about them?

Q. What are some things you can do because they’re the right things to do, even though you may not enjoy doing them? (i.e. chores, school, etc.)

We should never grow tired from doing the right thing. Instead, we should stay faithful to God because, just at the right time, God will honor and bless our faithfulness.

3. ACTIVITY:



Have your children do some of the things they discussed earlier when asked some ways they could show others they care about them. Perhaps, they could write a card to someone, do a craft to give as a gift to someone, help clean something for someone, lighten someone’s load, or simply share kind words with someone who needs encouragement.

Because you’ve done these things, God said He’ll bless your faithfulness to Him and your faithfulness in doing the right thing no matter what!



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for your children to care for others and always do the right thing - no matter what. Pray, as they care for others and do right, God will honor their faithfulness.