

**Never Enough
Never Enough Money
Small Group Notes
January 9 and 12**

Main Point: When we move beyond having a “never enough” attitude, we are going to understand what it means to be at peace where your feet are!

Context: 1 and 2 Samuel is set after the book of Judges. The book covers the lives of Samuel, Saul, and David. The book begins with Samuel’s birth and his eventual call as a prophet of God. For today’s lesson we are looking at how the discontentment of the people pervaded even the synagogue, in particular, the priest, Eli, and his sons, Hophni and Phineas.

Introduction: Contentment is a state of happiness and satisfaction.

Do you agree with this definition?

What is a time that you have felt discontentment in relationship to money? How did it impact your relationships with others? How did it impact your relationship with God?

There are times when we look at money and our desires can be to run a race to always try to get more money in our lives instead of seeing the provision of God.

Group Video Points and Discussion (Watch the video (website or Youtube) and then talk through the points):

1. We are all looking for contentment, yet sometimes we feel that it is hard to find it. A definition of contentment is being at peace where our feet are. We find it when God is sovereign, and He meets us right where we are.

When has there been a time that you struggled seeing God’s presence meet you where you are? What are some ways that you can see is presence even in difficult moments?

2. Contentment is something that is to be cultivated. We need to help each other through accountability to cultivate contentment.

Who is someone in your life that you feel can hold your accountable in times when you are discontented about money? How is cultivating contentment related to cultivating trust in others?

3. There is a high cost to discontentment. One of the areas that this can occur is in how we serve. Serving is a way for us to put others needs before our own. Thus, when we have a “never enough” attitude, we may miss out on what God has called us to do.

How can serving others help us to learn contentment, especially in how we use our time and money? Has this been a struggle for you before? What is a way that you can discover more of what the Lord has called you to do?

4. Contentment is an inner battle (within our souls and motives), i.e., my kingdom versus God's kingdom. We choose so often to do things our way versus His way. These motives are revealed in our money.

How does the world encourage you to choose your kingdom over God's kingdom? Describe a time in your life when you had to learn to do things God's way versus your own way.

5. What we love most is going to define us. Eli's sons were by God and yet didn't have a love for God. Therefore, the number one enemy for our affections is our money.

How do you see money impacting what your heart is pursuing? What is the difference in living for money and having money to live?

6. Eli's daughter-in-law, responded that the presence of God was gone (the ark was removed).

How do we draw closer to the presence of God? What are we doing that is helping us to learn more about God and help to know His love?

7. We are called to be thankful and faithful, no matter the circumstances. When we see the blessings of God right where we are today, we move past discontentment and begin to see the faithfulness of God.

Group Discussion:

1. Read 1 Samuel 2:12-17

Points from the sermon:

- Understanding the high cost of financial discontentment: (Read 1 Timothy 6:10)
 - Financial discontentment is a gateway to greater sin.
 - Financial discontentment wrecks your physical health.
 - Financial discontentment steals your ministry.

How did Hophni and Phinehas' cravings for more affect their relationships with those who came to offer sacrifices (v. 16)?

What are evidences of financial discontentment in your life today?

2. Read 1 Samuel 4:18-22

Points from the sermon:

- Cultivating Contentment
 - Win the kingdom battle (Read Proverbs 3:9)
 - Check your love life (Read Matthew 6:21, 24; Jeremiah 2:13)
 - Focus on the right yard (Read 2 Peter 1:3)

Why does the response of the wife of Phineas tell us about the example he must have left for his sons (1 Sam. 4:18)?

What kind of example are you setting for your family about contentment?

3. Read 1 Samuel 2:13-14

Point from the sermon:

- Contentment is a result of being thankful and faithful with your forkful

What are some things that challenged you in reading about how you view money?

What are some ways that you find yourself acting like Eli's sons in your life? What would it look like in your life to change?

Do: Action Steps

What does it look like for you to focus on where God has you today versus constantly looking ahead for the "next thing?"

What are ways that you can be satisfied in what the Lord has given you?

How does our desire to see the blessings of God impact our contentment?