



YOU NEED WHAT?

Disciples & Early Church • U9#4 1st-3rd Gr. • Apr.6, 2025

Concept

God provides everything we need.

Goal

Students will learn that we can be content because God gives us everything we need.

Passage

1Timothy 6: 6-10, 17, 18

Key Verse: "So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content." 1

Timothy 6:8 (NLT)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A variety of 20-25 laminated pictures of toys, clothes, food, cars, household appliances, furniture, etc. from magazines <p>Instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant w/root labeled "Love of Money" 8 different leaves labeled: cheat, steal, lie, unloving, whine, argue, hit, proud Mean face Plant w/root labeled "Contentment" 8 different leaves labeled: generous, share, help others, thankful, humble, joyful, work for God, love others Happy face <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candy, 1 large bag per class 	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key verse separated into 6 phrases & printed on cardstock Crayons, markers 4 copies of "God's Promises about His Provision" Cardstock, 2 half sheets/student

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information (for the teacher)

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This lesson focuses on Paul's warning and exhortations regarding materialism. The false teachers threatening Ephesus somehow connected godliness with increasing one's wealth (1 Tim 6:5). Apparently the church had affluent members who were becoming arrogant as they developed false security from their riches. Other members were enticed to envy their material wealth, falling to sinful ways of acquiring it.

Paul's warning is clear that greed, as exhibited by the love of money, is very dangerous to the Christian life. As an antidote to greed, Paul prescribes contentment with God's provisions for meeting our basic needs. As for those who already are wealthy, Paul specifically states that they should generously share their wealth.

Children are constantly exposed to the cultural message that we need everything we want. This lesson asks students to classify material wealth into things we need and things we want. Understanding the difference between needs and wants is crucial for developing an attitude of contentment. Students will look at the outworking of greed and then contrast these with the outworking of contentment.

"Although the previous verse (6:8) instructs the believer to be content with that which he has, there is nothing in vv. 9 and 10 to indicate that great possessions are sinful. The apostle does make abundantly plain the dangers involved in great possessions: (1) Riches make temptation and entanglement more likely. (2) Foolish and hurtful desires are encouraged. (3) Those desires often lead to destruction. (4) The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (v. 10). (5) Frequently one errs from the faith because of the pursuit or protection of riches. (6) Wealth is regularly the causal factor in men's piercing themselves through with many sorrows (v. 10). Those who have been blessed by God with material wealth should never despise the blessing but rather should heed the warnings."
[1]

Additional Reading: Matthew 6:24-30; Philippians 4:11, 12

[1]Believer's Study Bible, notes from QuickVerse, I Tim. 6:9.

Set Up

Instructions: Write in large letters on the whiteboard, "THINGS WE WANT" and "THINGS WE NEED."

Activity Stations:

- **Bible Promise Cards**

- **Instructions:** This is the last week of this project. This week the students will illustrate promises about God's provision.

- **Contentment Concentration**

- **Instructions:** Mix up the 6 large cards and place them face down on the table. The object of the game is to turn all the cards up in the proper order. To begin, have a student turn over one card. If it is the "... if we have" card, the card stays up and that student continues to turn cards up as long as he turns them up in the correct order. When a card turned up is out of correct order, all cards are turned face down again and another student gets a turn.

Goal: To distinguish between "needs" and "wants"

I have some pictures to give each of you. I want you to think about these pictures and decide if they are things that we need in order to live or things that we want, but don't really need. When you decide which they are, place each item under "THINGS WE NEED" or "THINGS WE WANT" on the white board.

Let's see what we have. (Quickly review some of the items in each.) What happens if we don't get _____? (Use several items from the things we need side.) What happens if we don't get _____? (Use several items from the things we WANT side.)

Everyone come sit down for the lesson.

Let's turn to 1 Timothy 6 and I will read verses 6-10. Our key verse says if we have food and clothing, we have all we need. As you consider what this verse says and look at the pictures on the white board, do you think the pictures are in the right place? (Guide them to have only pictures of food or clothing on the "NEEDS" side.) The Bible says if we have the things we need we should be content or satisfied, but often we want more—much more than we need. Let's repeat our key verse together.

Verses 9 and 10 say that the desire to be rich traps us into ruin and destruction and the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil. (Point to the plant with root labeled "Love of money.") Let's consider what we do when we can't get the things we want. For example, suppose someone really wanted a _____ (use item from pictures) and they couldn't get enough money to buy one. (Take ideas from students.)

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

Lesson Continued

This is a plant root (on the white board put up the plant with root labeled "Love of money"). Plants grow up from the roots. Good roots make strong and healthy plants. Like plant roots, our hearts determine how we grow with God. If our hearts love God, we will grow in love for Him and others. Let's see what happens if our heart loves money. (Have a student place the leaf labeled "cheat.") This leaf says "cheat." Sometimes we cheat to get more things or money. (Have a student place the leaf labeled "steal.") This leaf says "steal." Sometimes we steal so we can have more things or money. (Have a student place the leaf labeled "lie.") This leaf says "lie." Lying is another way we get more things or money. (Have a student place the leaf labeled "whine.") This leaf says "whine." Sometimes we whine to try to make someone get us something we want. Or we whine because we don't have what we want. (Have a student place the leaves labeled "argue" and "hit.") These leaves say "argue" and "hit." Arguing and hitting are other ways we try to get what we want. If we want things we don't have and our goal is to get more, we cheat, lie, whine, argue or hit to get them. These are all very destructive, aren't they?

When we get what we want and have more than others, then we are proud. (Put up proud leaf.) We think we are better and more important than people who don't have as much money or as many things as we do. (Put up "unloving" leaf) This leaf says "unloving." We are selfish and unloving when we love money and things more than God and people.

What kind of plant would you say this is? Should we call this plant love? Let's call it greed. That would be a good name for this plant.

Now look down at 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What are rich Christians supposed to do? (They are to share their things.) The Bible says that if we have more than we need we are rich. Let's look at the THINGS WE NEED (point to the pictures). Some people don't even have what they need. Paul says people who have a lot of things should use their things and money to help the people who don't have enough.

Who remembers our key verse? When we are content we are satisfied. Have you ever been so hungry for dinner that you thought you would die? Then you eat and get completely full and don't want any more food. At that point, you would say you are satisfied or content. But with things, it seems that there is always something more we want; we are never content.

Let's make a plant that shows us what grows out of the root of contentment. (Point to root labeled "contentment.") When we are content or satisfied we believe God has given us everything we need and we are grateful.

Here are some leaves that might grow from the root of contentment. (Have a student place the leaf labeled "generous.")

Lesson Continued

This leaf says "generous." Does anyone know what "generous" means? (It means always looking for chances to give to others.) We are generous when we share our money, time and things with others. (Have a student place the leaf labeled "share.") This leaf says "share." (Have a student place the leaf labeled "help others.") This leaf says "help others." (Have a student place the leaf labeled "thankful to God.") This leaf says "thankful to God." Our thankfulness to God comes when we are grateful that God gives us everything we need. (Have a student place the leaf labeled "humble.") We are humble when we think of others before ourselves, look for ways to meet their needs, always give Jesus the credit for the good we do. (Have a student place the leaf labeled "joyful.") This leaf says "joyful." We are joyful when we are thankful to God for what we have rather than complaining about things we don't have. (Have a student place the leaf labeled "love for others.") This leaf says "love for others." We can show love to others with our money, our time and our things. For example, if we give up one coke or candy bar, a child in Southeast Asia, can eat for a whole day! We can buy Bibles for people who don't have them. We can help support missionaries who tell others around the world about Jesus. There are so many exciting things we can do if we are content and believe that God will give us what we need. How awesome—God wants to work through us to do His work!

Now let's look at the 2 plants that have grown from the 2 roots. (Put mean face on the flower with "love of money" root.) What kind of a plant grew from the "love of money" root? (The greedy, mad, unhappy plant grew.) (Put happy face on flower with "contentment" root.) What kind of plant grew from the "contentment" root? (The generous, thankful, happy plant grew.) Which would you rather be? God says that "... key verse.

Transition

Everyone take a seat at a table for a special snack.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Instructions: Mark a line dividing the playing area in half. Divide the group into two even teams. Throw on the ground an even amount of candy on each side. On "Go", players run to the opposing team's side, grabbing up two candies at a time and bringing them back to their side of the playing area. If tagged while on the opposing team's side, players drop the candies in their hands and travel back to their side empty handed. Once back on their side, players can continue to grab more candies. The team with the most candy on their side at the end of the game wins.

Play for as long as you want, then end the game when time is up. The goal of the game was to be greedy and grab as much candies as possible. Some of you may have tried grabbing more than two candies at a time. And if you played by the rules, most of you were probably at least tempted to grab more. Others were accused of not going back to your team's side when tagged. Chances are almost everybody was tempted not to go back when tagged.

Learning Activity#1 Continued

This game is a picture of what happens when we're greedy.

Good News: All of us struggle with greed. Does anyone know what that is? Greed is one of the sins for which Jesus died. Jesus died on the cross for our greed and all our other sins. He took the punishment for those sins so we can have a relationship with God. How do we begin a relationship with God? (Tell God that we know we sin, thank Jesus that He died for all our sins and ask that Jesus' death count for all our sins.)

Transition

Let's get into our small groups.

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

- 1 Timothy 6:6-10 gives a lot of warnings! What are they?
- Does verse 10 say you're evil if you have money? What does it say? (Love of money is root...)
- What happens when you don't get something you want (and don't really need)? How do you act?
- Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Does it say it is wrong to have money and things? (NO!) Who gives us those things? (God) He richly gives us all things for what? (our enjoyment)
- What does v. 19 mean?
- Are you willing to be honest when you realize you are being greedy? What would help you to think differently? (Suggestions: ask others to pray for you, tell God you know you are being greedy, thank God that He has already forgiven you and that He wants to give you good things, ask Him to show you one way to be generous.)
- How do you know when you are thankful? Are you willing to ask people to remind you when you are not thankful?

Missions Prayer: Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Let's pray that God will remind us to be thankful for what He has given us, especially when we want to complain about what we don't have. And let's pray that we will see how God has generously given so much to us.