



Week Two

Abundant Living—Consumerism vs. Simplicity

OPENING

- If money were not a factor, what is one thing you would most like to buy? Why?
- What is the perfect gift that someone could give you for your next birthday?

READ PROVERBS 30:8B-9

- Why might some people advocate a life of poverty for those who seek the Lord?
- Why might God be forgotten if you have more than you need?
- What sins may result from living at either extreme of poverty or wealth?
- What do you think about the “give us this day our daily bread” mentality? Can you be satisfied with this?

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13

- What is the “secret of living in every situation” (v.12)?
- How do you respond (in attitude or word) when you want something that you cannot have or afford?
- How would you define “being content?”
- When in your life have you found it hardest to be content?

MAKING IT REAL

- Are you content? If so, why? If not, what circumstances would need to occur to make you content?
- What is something that you could do this week that would lead to greater contentment?
- Have you ever tried the practices of gratitude and/or restraint in order to cultivate an attitude of contentment? If yes, describe. If not, how might these practices help you?

*“Live simply, love generously,
care deeply, speak kindly,
leave the rest to God.”*

Ronald Reagan

PRAY TOGETHER

Lord, thank you for giving us the greatest gift of our lives in the form of Your Son. There is no possession that can measure up to the matchless name of Jesus. Remove the need that we often feel to acquire stuff or to “keep up with the Joneses.” Help us to recognize the value of all that You have bestowed on us—to be grateful for the good, and willing to learn and grow in dependence upon You during the tough times. In Jesus name, amen.