



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 4 – Our Comfort Problem – Sep. 20, 2020

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

Helpful Resources for Studying 1 John

- *RightNow Media Study with Tony Evans* – <http://bit.ly/123JohnTonyEvans>
- *The BibleProject Video* – <http://bit.ly/BibleProject1John>
- *John's Letters: Discovering Genuine Christianity* – <http://bit.ly/JohnsLetters>

KNOW:

- Think about this past week. What is one thing you saw advertised that made you think, "I've got to have that"? Are there any seasonal pleasures that resonate with you in the autumn months?
- How do you define contentment? In your own experiences, what have you discovered to be the key to contentment? In what circumstances do you most typically struggle to be content? Why?
- Webster defines The American Dream as "a happy way of living that is thought of by many Americans as something that can be achieved by anyone in the U.S. especially by working hard and becoming successful." When did you first learn about The American Dream? How would you define it? Have you found yourself trying to pursue the American Dream?



GROW:

- Have someone read **1 Timothy 6:6-8 & Philippians 4:11-13**. What similarities do you see between these two passages of Scripture? How does Paul's view of contentment compare with the modern world's view of contentment?
- When you feel overwhelmed, how do you escape the pressures of the world? Do any of those things keep you from growing closer to Christ? Are there any verses from **1 John** that have been an encouragement to you?
- John Calvin famously said, "the heart is a perpetual idol factory," meaning, there are always things that will compete with God for our attention. What competes for your attention with God? How can we guard against these things?
- We often find pleasure in rest. Rest is a good thing. However, sometimes we cross the line and dance in the pleasure of escape. Where is that line for you? How do you know when you have crossed it? How does **1 John 2:15-17** speak to this?



SHOW:

- Are there any spiritual disciplines or practices that could help regularly foster contentment in Jesus versus contentment in the way of the world? Brainstorm as a group. How would they help?
- How does the American Dream differ from what God calls us to as Christ followers? Are there parts of the American Dream that you are pursuing that is hindering your calling as a follower of Christ? What change needs to take place in your life in the way you approach money and material possessions?
- Do you find it difficult to reconcile the struggle between the pleasures of this world and finding true and ultimate pleasure in relationship with Jesus? Be willing to be a little vulnerable and honest about this. Ask your D-Group to speak into this in your life.