



Text us at **833-271-8805**.
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.
Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.

practicing the good life.

Identify something you own that you do not need, and give it away or sell it and give the money to someone in need.

- **Identify an item to sell and/or give away.** You don't need to sell everything, just something. It could be an item you rarely use — that bike you never ride, the books collecting dust, your aging record collection, etc. Or it could be an item you love and use regularly, but you feel the gentle pull of the Spirit to give away. This calls for prayerful discernment.

- **Once you identify an item, give it away.** You can give to an organization like a local nonprofit or directly to someone you know in need. Don't make a big deal out of it. Just bless people as quietly as you can, without drawing attention to yourself or putting them in an awkward position. You may want to consider giving anonymously, if you feel led to do so.

Note: This exercise may be really hard and feel like peeling a layer off your heart, but on the other side is joy and freedom.



Want to Simply?

If you *really* want to jump on the simplicity train, this guide from Practicing the Way offers some helpful and practical ideas.

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

When I'm **CONTENT**,

Jesus regularly warns of greed Luke 12:15; Matthew 19:21-24

contentment is a byproduct of generosity Luke 11:39-41

I recognize there is more **GAIN** in **GIVING**

money is powerful, hard to steward, & temporary Mark 4:18-19; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; Eccl. 5:10

generosity → step 1: give it away Proverbs 3:9-10; Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:10

and more **ABUNDANCE** in **SIMPLICITY**.

generosity → step 2: work to simplify 1 Tim. 6:6-8; Philippians 4:12-13; Hebrews 13:5; Proverbs 30:8-9

wealth often promises what only God can give 1 Timothy 6:17-19



Food for Thought

Questions & Scripture for Further Study & Reflection

What is this? – Normally this section includes questions and a study for our Life Groups. If you're not in one, you should sign up in the Commons, let us know on a Connect Card (pew rack or in the app), or contact the church office! Most groups break for the holidays, but others will continue and use this for their study time together. Instead of our normal study guide, this is a smaller study and some questions for you to reflect/journal on throughout the week. Look for sign-ups for new groups this month!

Food for Thought...

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. Where are you experiencing a lack of margin in your life in your relationships, schedule, or finances?

2. What is one area of life that you could possibly simplify (schedule, possessions, finances, etc.)?

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." *Few verses in Scripture are more popular (and misunderstood) than these 11 words from Paul in his letter to the Philippian church. For Paul this was more than a motivational speech to roll up his sleeves and face life's circumstances; it was a statement about contentment in spite of them.*

Many of us long to experience the content life, but it can feel elusive. We wait for a sense of contentment to trail behind the next thing: a raise, a promotion, keys to a home we can finally call ours; but contentment in Paul's experience was not derived from his circumstances but pronounced over them; it was not accumulated or purchased, but discovered in Jesus and his way.

Read Philippians 4:10-20, then answer the questions that follow.

3. **Verse 13** is often misunderstood. How does your understanding of this verse change given the context of "content whatever the circumstances"?






(Food for Thought continues on back panel...)

WELCOME TO **WAWAWSEE**

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

This is who we hope you grow to *become* at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

-  1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
-  2 | **Responding To God.** How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
-  3 | **Receiving From Others.** Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
-  4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
-  5 | **Going to those Far from God.** How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

WORD FIND IN THE **WORD**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: 1 Timotny 6:6-11 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

⁶ But **godliness** with **contentment** is **great gain**, ⁷ for we **brought nothing** into the **world**, and we **cannot take anything** out of the **world**. ⁸ But if we have **food** and **clothing**, with these we will be **content**. ⁹ But those who

desire to be **rich fall** into **temptation**, into a **snare**, into **many senseless** and **harmful desires** that **plunge people** into **ruin** and **destruction**. ¹⁰ For the **love of money** is a **root** of all **kinds of evils**. It is through this **craving** that **some** have **wandered away** from the **faith** and **pierced** themselves with **many pangs**.

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, **godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.**

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Food for Thought *(continued)*

4. What do you think is Paul's "secret" for a life of contentment?

5. Read Paul's overview of the persecution and trials he faced in **2 Corinthians 11:24-28**. How does this impact your reading of the above passage, especially his contentment?

6. If you were to rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 to describe your level of contentment, what would it be? Let's say Paul's number is a 10. Why do you think your number might be different or similar?

Practicing the Good Life...

Review the "Practicing the Good Life" section from the Message Notes. Then reflect on the questions below...

1. Have you noticed any correlation in your own life between how much you own and how content you are? How does one impact the other?
2. In what ways do you notice the culture around you fostering discontentment in you?
3. What are some of the best things in your life right now? What are you most grateful for?
4. Does it feel possible for you to have contentment regardless of your circumstances like Paul says? Why or why not?
5. If you took the invitation to practice the good life and give something away and/or simplify, in what ways, if any, did it your view on material possessions and their role in your life?

This week's Food for Thought is adapted from "The Generosity Practice" (pages 40-41) published for free by Practicing the Way. Learn more at practictheway.org



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the good life.

Sunday, January 12, 2025

PART 2

More of What?

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-11, 17-19



We're Glad You're Here Today!

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<https://wawasee.today>