TBF FOUNDATION

# PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP:

Applying Biblical Principles to Everyday Life

**LEARNER GUIDE | SESSION 3** 

How Much Is Enough?



**SESSION IN A SENTENCE** Understanding and practicing contentment helps us understand how much is truly enough.

**BIBLE BACKGROUND** Paul is ending his ministry; he is finishing the race. As his life and ministry comes to a close, he writes to Timothy, his protégé and son in the faith. Paul desires to teach him about leadership in the context of the local church. Part of this is the importance of contentment, and how to avoid the temptation that can go along with the pursuit of material gain.

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS TODAY** The love of money and the pursuit of material gain has proved costly to many people. It has cost some people their families as they have chosen to work too many hours, leading to the neglect of people they love. It has cost others their freedom as they embraced illegal tactics that they knew were wrong, thinking they would not get caught. Scripture teaches us that the answer to the question of "How much is enough?" is found not in pursuing and gaining more possessions, but rather the pursuit of contentment in what the Lord has provided.

## 1 TIMOTHY 3:6-10

<sup>3</sup> If anyone teaches false doctrine and does not agree with the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching that promotes godliness, <sup>4</sup> he is conceited and understands nothing, but has an unhealthy interest in disputes and arguments over words. From these come envy, quarreling, slander, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup> and constant disagreement among people whose minds are depraved and deprived of the truth, who imagine that godliness is a way to material gain. <sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. <sup>8</sup> If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup> But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### **POINT 1:** THE ANSWER IS FOUND IN

### POINT 3: OUR

(vv.3-5)

ALWAYS WANTS MORE (vv.9-10)

### POINT 2: THE ANSWER IS FOUND IN

(vv.6-8)

# **MY NEXT STEPS**

- 1. Have a spiritual conversation Ask a trusted friend to evaluate whether or not they see any indications in my actions or attitudes that indicate I love money excessively.
- 2. Reflect on my giving I will evaluate my spending to determine how much I am giving to God as opposed to how much I spend on things for myself.
- 3. Have a focused prayer time I will spend time this week asking God to show me what it looks like to pursue godliness with contentment. I will record what the Lord is telling me in a prayer journal and make changes to apply His teachings to my daily living.

# **MY GROUP'S PRAYER REQUESTS**

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### **SERMON NOTES**

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TODAY'S PLANS. TOMORROW'S IMPACT.

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