WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

Sermon Title: Finding Contentment
Key Scripture: Psalm 32:1-11 NIV
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/finding-contentment
Date + Speaker: November 3, 2024 Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter Question:

1. Consider your childhood. Can you recall an instance when you were extremely frustrated? Briefly share the story with the group

One of the of the antonyms/opposites of the verb, 'to be frustrated' is 'to be contented'. This sermon examined the possibility, pathway and priviledges of true contentment.

The Big Idea: True contentment is not found in power, money, the things money can buy or the people we associate with. It is found in an honest, close relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

2. Read Psalm 32:1-11 and then re-read verses 1&2. If a group member has a very different translation have them read the first two verses again. What words and phrases capture group members attention and why?
3. On a scale of 1-10 with 1 being completely frustrated and disaffected and 10 being extremely content invite group members to share how content they are in their lives at the moment. They may wish to give a brief reason or not. How does even the possibility of moving towards a 10 on the scale make them feel?
4. In your opinion what are some examples of obstacles to a blessed or contented life?
5. Sin is an unpopular concept. After reviewing the definitions of sinfulness used by David, discuss how acknowledging one's sinfulness is a key step in moving towards contentment and why? [The definitions are in the *Leaders Helps* below]

6. Read Psalm 32:3&4. Discuss how and why our inclination to 'hide' blocks the pathway to contentment? Is confession easy or difficult and why?
7. Read Psalm 32:5, 2 Cor 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:24 Why are these verses referred to as 'The Great Exchange'. How are they related to the pathway to contentment/blessedness?
8. Pastor Mark referred to 3 'priviledges' of finding contentment in Christ: divine protection (v. 6, 7&10), divine proximity (v. 8&9) and divine praise (v. 11). Invite the group members to testify of times in their own lives when they have experienced these 'priviledges'.
9. Consider ending the meeting with praise and prayer. Focussing on Jesus – who is worthy of our worship.

Additional Resources:

Leaders Notes:

Question 2: Once everyone has shared affirm their observations and then highlight the word 'blessed' and provide Pastor Mark's definition: a state of contentment or happiness in the spiritual realm.

Question 3: The goal is to begin to generate a sense of hope and forward momentum

Question 4: The more personal the example the better. Affirm each response.

Question 5: If 'clearing the air' with God and living in forgiveness are key to a life of contentment (as David implies) then our sinfulness must be acknowledged.

Transgression = to step over the boundary or cross a line; open rebellion against the clear commands of God

Sin = a defect; missing the mark of God's perfection; think – an arrow that can't fly straight

Iniquity = a distortion; something warped – our very nature as humans all the way to just after the 'apple fiasco' in the garden

Guile = deceitfulness and dishonesty

Questions 6 & 7 are the Turning Point so spend time examining all the ways we hide and really marvelling at what was accomplished on the Cross on our behalf.

 Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on emotional health and healing: Life Groups at Woodvale - https://www.woodvale.ca/support

 Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on service, tasks, and activities: Watch for an email from the Director of Connect Groups outlining unique opportunities to serve underpriviledged communities in Ottawa and see the gospel lived out.

 Additional resources appealing to those groups with a more studious or intellectual bent: https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/6-things-jesus-does-with-sin/?amp=1