

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Satisfied in Money
“Satisfied” Series
November 11/12, 2017

Main Idea:

***“Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.”
(Ecclesiastes 5:10)***

Discovery Questions

1. What was a vacation you took or a purchase you made that you got a lot of enjoyment out of—maybe far beyond what you expected? What made it so enjoyable?

This week, we continue our November series entitled “Satisfied.” This series is based on the idea that God wants us to be satisfied and fulfilled in this life, but the route God suggests we take to find satisfaction is often very different than the route the world offers.

Today, we’ll talk about being satisfied in money. We’ll look at a passage in Ecclesiastes, that provides a very honest look at money and its limitations.

2. Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-22. What do we learn about money from this passage? List as many things as you can find.

- 3.**
- a. How have you seen the truth of Ecclesiastes 5:10—that the person who loves wealth is never satisfied with their income—play itself out in the world around us? What examples have you seen?**
 - b. Have you ever seen an increase in wealth bring with it an increase in problems? What are some examples?**
 - c. Have you ever met someone who seems to be both generous and enjoy what they have? Describe that person to the group. What stands out to you about their example?**

- 4.**
- a. How have you seen the “disappointment” of money in your own life? How have you seen it fail to satisfy or fulfill like Solomon talks about?**
 - b. How do you know if you’re in danger of “loving” money? What characterizes someone who loves wealth and how do you think we can guard against that in our lives?**
 - c. How do you think we can learn to really enjoy what we have as Solomon talks about? What does it take to not just be content with what we have, but actually to enjoy it?**

5. One of the values we have at Friends Church is “radical generosity.” We define that value as “Giving out of gratitude without holding back.”

- a. What can get in the way of us being “radically generous” in our lives?**
- b. How can we overcome that? What would it take to be radically generous in how we use our finances?**

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DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Leader Guide

1. What was a vacation you took or a purchase you made that you got a lot of enjoyment out of—maybe far beyond what you expected? What made it so enjoyable?

This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.

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Today, we’ll talk about being satisfied in money. We’ll look at a passage in Ecclesiastes that provides a very honest look at money and its limitations.

2. Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-22. What do we learn about money from this passage? List as many things as you can find.

As we talked about this weekend, Solomon in this passage makes three observations about money, followed by a way to really find satisfaction and fulfillment in money.

First, Solomon observes that money cannot satisfy (v. 10) – if you love money, you’ll never be satisfied with it.

Second, Solomon observes that money does not solve all of our problems, and it actually creates new ones (vv. 11-12). The two problems Solomon observes is that money brings with it “moochers” trying to get a cut of what someone is making (v. 11), and that there is often stress that comes with the responsibility money brings (v. 12).

Third, Solomon observes that money is fleeting (vv. 13-15). It can be taken away from us when we are alive (vv. 13-14), and it will be taken away from us one day (v. 15). Solomon concludes, then, by saying that those who pursue money will experience “frustration, affliction, and anger” (vv. 16-17).

So how do we find satisfaction in money? Solomon says to enjoy what we have (vv. 18-20, especially vv. 19-20). God has given us money not to make us feel guilty, but to enjoy what we have.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.

- 3. a. How have you seen the truth of Ecclesiastes 5:10—that the person who loves wealth is never satisfied with their income—play itself out in the world around us? What examples have you seen?**
- b. Have you ever seen an increase in wealth bring with it an increase in problems? What are some examples?**
- c. Have you ever met someone who seems to be both generous and enjoy what they have? Describe that person to the group. What stands out to you about their example?**

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For part “b,” we only need to look at what’s going on in Hollywood to see that money carries with it some of its own problems; it can bring a false sense of power that can corrupt. We also think of lottery winners who came into a huge amount of money and whose life was destroyed as a result. For an example of this, search online for “Jack Whittaker,” a \$314 million dollar lottery winner who ultimately lost his 17-year-old granddaughter to a drug overdose in direct relation to his winnings.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.

4.
 - a. **How have you seen the “disappointment” of money in your own life? How have you seen it fail to satisfy or fulfill like Solomon talks about?**
 - b. **How do you know if you’re in danger of “loving” money? What characterizes someone who loves wealth and how do you think we can guard against that in our lives?**
 - c. **How do you think we can learn to really enjoy what we have as Solomon talks about? What does it take to not just be content with what we have, but actually to enjoy it?**

For part “b,” common answers can include:

- *Fixating on money, always feeling like we don’t have enough.*
- *Decisions are made with money as the main criteria.*
- *Hoarding it or not sharing it.*
- *Believing that just “a little more” will bring happiness and fulfillment.*

We talked in our weekend services about two ways to guard against a love for money: being generous with it (1 Timothy 6:17-19 was the passage cited for this principle), and enjoying what we have—not focusing on what we don’t have.

For part “c,” it may require making a commitment to not look at shopping websites, to not spend our time daydreaming about potential purchases, or even putting a moratorium on buying something for a period of time. (In fact, there is a movement online called “No-Spend November” where people make a commitment to refuse frivolous purchases during the month.)

Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

5. **One of the values we have at Friends Church is “radical generosity.” We define that value as “Giving out of gratitude without holding back.”**
 - a. **What can get in the way of us being “radically generous” in our lives?**
 - b. **How can we overcome that? What would it take to be radically generous in how we use our finances?**

For part “b,” sometimes it takes just doing it—just practicing generosity and seeing God provide for us. Challenge your group if they aren’t generous to just try it over the next couple of weeks and to see what happens as a result.

Spend 5-7 minutes on this question.