

SCC Small Group Study – March 12, 2023
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LIFE DOES TEST HOPE
Philippians 4:10-23

Getting Started:

What's a situation in your life when you felt frustrated? How have you learned to be happy in spite of it?

Describe a time when you felt truly content and at peace. What was the source of your contentment?

Searching the Scriptures:

A. Read Philippians 4:12. We live in a world consumed with the accumulation of material things. What do you think the apostle Paul would say to a person who made one of the following statements:

- I'll be content when I get my next promotion, raise, or new car.
- I will be content when I have more of my needs met.
- This world is too uncertain, there is no hope for finding lasting contentment.

B. We all tend to compare ourselves at some level with others. Which of the following have you gravitated toward the most?

- I must have what others have to be happy
- I must be liked by others in order to be happy
- Having more will make me happy

C. Read Philippians 4:13. Have you ever lost one or more of your comforts in life that you have come to rely upon? How did you adjust?

D. *"I can do everything through him who gives me strength"* What does this verse mean to you personally? Do you have an example from your life?

E. Read Philippians 4:14-19. From this passage, what happens in the following areas when a follower of Christ learns to give joyfully and sacrificially?

In the life of the giver:

In the lives of those who receive the gift:

In the heart of God:

F. Have you ever seen God meet your needs after you expressed faith that he would, or after you gave when it hurt to do so? How did this experience change you?

Application of Scripture:

A. Have you been comparing yourself to others and coming up short? Write down the things you think you are lacking right now. Look at each of them and think through what the apostle Paul or Jesus might say.

B. Make a list of all the things you are anxious about. Consciously offer each one to the Lord and thank Him for supplying you with his peace

C. As a loving Father, God provides for his children, and the way he provides is often to use the hands of other people. Take time to reflect on who God has used in your life to provide for you and help meet your needs over the years. Write down their names