

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## The Pursuit of Happiness

Heather Packett

### Introduction

Solomon sought to pursue happiness and purpose with every available means and yet at the end of his life, he concluded that without God, all pursuit of pleasure and wealth was pointless. Solomon finally recognised that our lot in life is a gift from God. He saw that only when we accept our lot can we truly find contentment. Paul summarised this when he said to Timothy “Godliness with contentment is great gain”.

### Bible Passage

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

### Discussion

1. Why is it hard to trust God when we have a western level of wealth? What else do we trust in instead of God?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 and 1 Timothy 6:10. What are some indicators that the love of money has become our focus? What can we do to change this approach?
3. What might it look like for us to uphold God's priorities?
4. Often our wants are far greater than our needs. How can we distinguish these two? Why is this difficult?
5. Our life is a gift from God that we cannot take for granted. How can we be counter-culturally generous with what we have?
6. Read Philippians 4:12-13. Why do we find it difficult to be content with what we have? What is the secret Paul learnt?

*(continued on next page)*

**Respond**

Discontentment is a condition rampant in our society today, and is a major factor that can lead to our consumeristic lifestyle. A Godly antidote to discontentment is gratitude. What are three things that you can be thankful for today and recognise as gifts from God? What can you do to instil gratitude as a regular habit each day?