1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NIV)

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Shalom: Contentment in Christ

OPEN

- What is one thing you feel that, if you had it, you might feel content?
- Background *(taken from the NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible)*: The apostle Paul is writing this letter to Timothy, who is pastoring the church in Ephesus. Just before today's passage, Paul addresses threats to Christian integrity in Ephesus, a thriving commercial center where worldly prosperity shaped many who came into the church. He returns to the problem of false teaching, which is a primary concern of the entire letter, and to warnings about the love of money.
- Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.

STUDY

- From verses 6-8, with what attitude does Paul's live his life?
- What does it mean to have godliness with contentment? How is it achieved and what is gained by it? *Feel free to look up the definitions of "godliness" and "contentment".*
- Looking at the rest of the chapter, describe the picture Paul paints of a life void of "godliness with contentment".
- How does the pursuit and love of money destroy contentment? How can it destroy faith? How does it destroy the kind of shalom we have been talking about the last few weeks of this Bible study?
- Where and when have you been tempted by the desire for wealth and money? Or are there other temptations that destroy your contentment in Christ? Discuss.
- Brainstorm godly practices that can help us develop contentment in Christ. Choose one and commit to making it a part of your life starting this week!

PRAY

- Beginning in confession, pray together. Move into thanksgiving and then ask God for help in attaining the attitude of contentment in Christ!