

## It's Not Fair, Or Is It?

### ***Introduction***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

Discontentment reveals a lack of trust in God. A discontented person is really saying that God is not treating him fairly, and that God could do better by him. Thus, contentment lessons are very important. A contented child is a delight to his parents. Contentment shows peace, faith, trust, joy, and even happiness. As God's children, when we learn to be content, we are a delight to Him also. Contentment drives away self-pity and a complaining spirit.

### ***The Scripture***

Read the Scripture to the group.

*"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."* —1 Timothy 6:8

### ***A Real Life Example***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

#### It's Not Fair!

Penny had just arrived at her friend May's house to spend the afternoon working on their science project together. May's mother answered the door and told Penny that she could go right up to May's room, as she was cleaning it and would be finished in just a few minutes. As Penny entered the room, May said, "Oh! Hi, Penny! I am so glad that you could come today. I will be finished folding these clothes in just a minute. Are you ready to start on our project?"

"Yes!" said Penny. "I am really looking forward to getting started so that we can finish in plenty of time before the fair."

As Penny sat down on the bed she began to notice the pretty clothes that May was folding and putting away. She looked down at her own clothes, which were handed down from her sister, Sarah. She began to think to herself, "I sure wish I could have some new clothes. I cannot remember the last time my mom bought me a new dress. She always just mends Sarah's dresses for me. I sure wish I could have what May has."

"Penny!" May startled her out of her thoughts.

"Yes?" answered Penny.

"Are you ready to get started?" asked May. "We can go down to the family room and work there, if you would like."

"I suppose," said Penny, unhappily. "You know what May?" said Penny.

"No, what?" asked May.

"Life is just not fair," grumbled Penny.

### ***Questions for Discussion***

1. What happened to Penny when she went up to May's room?
2. How did her attitude change?
3. What do you think Jesus would say about her thoughts?
4. How did Penny's thoughts make her feel about May?
5. How did Penny's thoughts change her attitude toward her mother and sister?
6. We can see that thoughts matter. What should Penny's thoughts have been, if she had wanted to please Jesus?
7. How can we change discontented thoughts into contented thoughts?
8. Penny's last words were, "Life is just not fair." If Penny had been a contented girl, what might her last words have been?

### ***Conclusion and Resolution***

Read the Scripture again. Read or explain the conclusion in your own words. Ask the group to suggest what specific changes that they can resolve to make in their daily lives that will help them to implement needed changes in this area. Ask them to especially consider things they have learned in the Bible to use as scriptural guideposts to a more competent and productive life.

*"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."* —1 Timothy 6:8

The Scripture says, *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."* We are what we think, so it is important to be very careful of our thoughts. We must guard them. Our thoughts often determine our emotions and moods, and even our actions. The antidote to discontentment is to count our blessings, be thankful for everything, and to trust God with His provision for us.

### ***Teacher's Notes***

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