

Blank Listening Guides

There is a Season
Experiencing Contentment
in Every Season of Life

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INTRODUCTORY WEEK – Getting Honest: Are You Content?

I. **Our destination:** _____

A. **Our Itinerary:**

1. The first part of our journey will involve _____ and _____ the seasons of life in order to:
 - discover your own _____ season of life, and to
 - gain insight about God's _____ throughout the seasons of your life.

2. The second part of our journey will involve learning the _____ of _____ in order to:
 - _____ them to your life in every _____;
 - and to ultimately _____ in every remaining season of your life.

B. **Defining Our Destination:**

_____ : to be _____ with your _____,
_____ or _____.

C. **Our Starting Point:** We know the destination, but, in order to get there, we must first
_____ where we are right now.

II. **Job's Journey:**

A. **Job 1:1–3**—Job's Description:

spiritually = _____, _____, Godfearing
physically = _____ and _____.

Result: _____.

B. **Job 1:20–22, 2:10**—Job's Initial Response to Satan's Attacks:

he _____ and worshipped, _____ God,
did not _____, did not _____ God.

INTRODUCTORY WEEK – LISTENING GUIDE

C. ***Job 3-31***—Job's Eventual Response:

spiritually = _____.

physically = in pain and _____.

Result: _____.

D. **Two Truths:**

1. _____ can cause even the _____, most godly believer to experience discontent.

2. _____ believers will ever experience the _____ suffering Job did, yet many of us are discontent when we experience even _____ suffering.

III. The Question: Why do so few Christian women experience ongoing contentment?

Cole's Unscientific Conclusions: 3 Groups of Women

A. **Group 1—Contentment** _____: This group of women continually repeat a _____ seeking satisfaction in many things.

Result: _____.

B. **Group 2—Contentment** _____: This group of women have chased contentment but have found it to be only _____.

Result: _____.

C. **Group 3—**_____: This rare group of women have discovered real _____, _____, and _____ despite their season of life or their circumstances.

Result: _____

IV. The Answer: If we want to experience ongoing contentment in every season of our life, we must—

A. _____ with ourselves.

B. If necessary, _____ our sin and _____. ***Job 42:1-6***

C. _____ and _____ the scriptural principles of contentment.

Phil. 4:11-12

WEEK ONE – She Said He Said: Proverbs 31 vs. Ecclesiastes 1

I. The Model Woman—*Prov. 31:10–31*

- A. Is a _____ of a woman through the _____ of her life.
- B. She lives a life of _____, _____, and _____. *Prov. 31:13, 18, 25, 29*

II. Solomon—*Ecc. 1:1–14*

- A. Is the _____ Solomon wrote during the _____ seasons of his life.
- B. He lives a life of _____, _____, and _____. *Ecc. 1:2–3, 8, 13b, 14*

III. Searching for Satisfaction:

A. Wisdom—*Ecc. 1:16–17*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

B. Pleasure—*Ecc. 2:1–2*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

C. Alcohol/Drugs—*Ecc. 2:3*

- _____
- _____
- _____

A Scriptural Perspective:

A. Wisdom—*1 Cor. 1:18–24, 30*

- _____
- _____
- _____

B. Pleasure—*2 Tim. 3:1, 4, Titus 3:3, 1 Tim. 6:17*

- _____
- _____
- _____

C. Alcohol/Drugs—*1 Tim. 5:23, Rom. 14:21, Eph. 5:18*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

WEEK ONE – LISTENING GUIDE

Searching for Satisfaction:

D. Works/Projects—*Ecc. 2:4–6*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

E. Possessions/Money—*Ecc. 2:7–9*

- _____
- _____
- _____

F. Sex—*Ecc. 2:8b*

- _____
- _____
- _____

A Scriptural Perspective:

D. Works/Projects—*Col. 3:23, Luke 10:40–42*

- _____
- _____
- _____

E. Possessions/Money—*Mt. 6:19–21, 2 Tim. 6:6–8*

- _____
- _____
- _____

F. Sex—*Heb. 13:4, 1 Cor. 6:18–20*

- _____
- _____
- _____

IV. Final Conclusions:

A. Life is _____ and a “chasing after the wind” when it is centered around _____, _____, _____ pursuits. *Ecc. 2:11*

B. But, a life of _____, _____, and _____ can be experienced because Christ has redeemed us from _____.
1 Pet. 1:17b–19, 1 Cor. 15:58

WEEK TWO – The Seasons of Life

- I. As Christian women, we will experience many different types of seasons which will simultaneously _____ to affect us in many _____ and _____ ways throughout our lifetime.
- A. _____ Seasons: caused by _____ and our reproductive system including...

- B. Seasons of _____ and Life _____ including...

- C. _____ Seasons: including...

- II. As Christian women, our faith in God and His Word must always be the _____ in determining how we live and respond to ***every*** season of our lives.

- III. Walking by Faith in Every Season—*Ruth 1–4*

- A. Two Women Who Walked by Faith:

Naomi

Ruth

Physical	_____	_____
Circumstances	_____	_____
Spiritual	_____	_____

WEEK TWO – LISTENING GUIDE

B. In Seasons of...

1. Extreme and _____ circumstances, God is pleased by our _____, “_____” of faith. *Ruth 1*

We may struggle with

2. _____, day-to-day activities, God is pleased by _____, obedient steps of faith. *Ruth 2*

These simple steps will:

3. _____, God may require us to take a _____ of _____ in order to follow Him. *Ruth 3*

4. _____, we will experience God’s _____ of faith. *Ruth 4*

WEEK THREE – The Seasons of David’s Life

I. What is a season?

Definition: Season⁴ = Hebrew “_____” which means:

- time
- the right time
- the proper time
- may be either short-lived or a longer time
- the (favorable or unfavorable) events in life
- in the plural it means circumstances, courses of time, occurrences, and events

II. What have we learned about seasons thus far?

- A. God is sovereign over the seasons of our lives. *Ecc. 3:1–8*
- B. As Christian women, we will experience many different types of seasons which will simultaneously combine to affect us in many positive and negative ways throughout our lifetime.
- C. As Christian women, our faith in God and His Word must always be the primary factor in determining how we live and respond to every season of our lives.

III. What other principles should we understand about the seasons of life?

The seasons of our lives will

- A. Be determined primarily by the _____ and _____ of our lives.
- B. _____ throughout our lives and will _____ in their length.
- C. Often _____ the characteristics of the seasons of nature.
- D. Not always correlate with our physical _____ or _____ in life.
- E. Not always _____ and _____ one another in a consistent order as the seasons of nature do.

IV. Evaluating the Seasons—*1 Samuel 16–20*

A. _____—*1 Sam. 16:11–13*

1. Evidence of Spring:

- season of _____ / _____.
- season of _____ / _____.
- season of spiritual _____ and “_____.”
- season of growing _____ with God.

2. Essentials for Spring:

- seek Him _____. *Matt. 6:33*
- seek Him in extended _____ and _____.
Psalm 23:2–3, 46:10
- seek _____ through His Word. *1 Pet. 2:2*

WEEK THREE – LISTENING GUIDE

B. _____ —*1 Sam. 16:14–21, 17:17–18:4*

1. Evidence of Summer:

- season of new _____.
- season of increased _____.
- season of spiritual _____.
- season of _____.

2. Essentials for Summer:

- guard your _____. *2 Cor. 11:3*
- guard your _____. *John 7:18, 1 Cor. 10:31*
- guard your _____. *John 15:15*

C. _____ —*1 Sam. 18:5–11*

1. Evidence of Autumn:

- season of _____.
- season of _____ / _____ / _____.
- season of new/unexpected _____.
- season of _____.

2. Essentials for Autumn:

- seek and _____ in _____. *Eph. 5:15–18, Jas. 1:5, 3:17*
- seek _____. *1 Sam. 19:18*
- seek God through:
 - a. _____ to His Will, and
 - b. for _____ in your circumstances. *Ps. 9:9–10, Prov. 18:10*

D. _____ —*1 Sam. 20:41–42*

1. Evidence of Winter:

- season of _____ / _____.
- season of _____ / _____.
- season of _____.
- season of _____.

2. Essentials for Winter:

- _____ the loss. *Ecc. 3:4 and 6*
- _____ to God: PRAY. *Ps. 142*

— _____

— _____

— _____

— _____

- _____. *v. 7*

- offer God the _____ of _____. *Is. 61:3, Heb. 13:15*

WEEK FOUR – In Every Season: Godsends and Giants

I. **Godsends:** the _____ and _____ people God sends into our lives to impact our lives for His divine purposes.

II. **Principles we learn from the Godsends in David's life:**

Godsend # 1—Samuel

1. They may _____ and _____ God's anointing/call upon our lives before we even become aware of it ourselves. *1 Sam. 16:10–13*
2. They are people we can _____, they're “_____.” *1 Sam. 19:18*

Godsend # 2—Jonathan

3. They may be our _____, and may eventually become our dearest friend. *1 Sam. 18:1–3*
4. Our relationship with them may be _____ in _____, but the effects of the relationship will _____ us for the rest of our lives. *2 Sam. 21:7*

Godsend # 3—Nathan

5. They will be a source of sound, timely, and _____ _____ enabling us to _____ God's will for our lives. *2 Sam. 7:1–17, 1 Ki. 1:5–39*
6. They will _____ us when we sin, and will tell us the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in order to bring us to _____ and _____. *2 Sam. 12:1–15*

Godsend # 4—Hushai

7. God often sends them when we are experiencing a season of _____ / _____. *2 Sam. 15:23, 30*
8. They often show up as _____ to our _____. *2 Sam. 15:31–37*

Godsend # 5—Joab

9. They enable us to see our _____. *2 Sam. 19:1–8*
10. They will not always be completely without _____, but God can still use them in our lives for His good purposes. *1 Kings 2:5–6*

WEEK FOUR – LISTENING GUIDE

III. **Giants:** the difficult circumstances, people, trials, and testings God sovereignly allows us to face in order to _____ our faith and increase our _____ upon Him.

IV. Four Types of Giants:

1. _____ —who seeks to _____ us. *1 Pet. 5:8, Eph. 6:10–18*

Our response:

- Be _____ and on the alert.
- _____ him, firm in your faith.
- Put on the spiritual _____ of God.

2. _____ —"giants" of our own making. *Jas. 1:14–15, Gal. 5:16, Rom. 6:11–14*

Our response:

- _____ by the Spirit.
- Consider yourself _____ to sin and _____ to God.
- Do not let _____ in your life.
- Present your body to God as an _____ of _____.

3. _____ —an _____ ; a living, breathing person. *2 Tim. 4:14–17, Matt. 5:44, 6:14–15*

Our response:

- Be on _____.
- Rely upon and _____ in God's presence and strength.
- _____ for your enemies.
- _____ your enemies.

4. _____ —trials and testings God sovereignly allows us to experience. *Jas. 1:2–4*

Our response:

- _____ them as a _____ because ...
- They _____ our faith;
- They produce _____;
- They _____ / _____ us.

V. Principles we learn from the Giants in David's life:

1. We will face giants throughout our _____ lifetime.

2. We will never face a giant _____.

- God is always with us, and
- He often sends Godsends to help us.

3. We may not defeat every giant in every battle, but we can repent, be cleansed and press on with _____ as David did.

WEEK FIVE – The Seasons of Your Life

I. Journey Update

A. **Our Destination:** _____—to be satisfied with your _____,
_____, and _____.

B. **Our Itinerary:** Two-Part Journey

1. Part I: _____ and _____ the seasons of life in order
to discover your own current season of life, and to gain insight about God's purposes
throughout the seasons of your life.

Primary Process: _____

2. Part II: learning the _____ of _____ in order
to apply them to your life in every season of your life.

Primary Process: _____

C. **Final Result:** _____

II. Today's Topic: The Struggle to Transition from Part I to Part II

A. Between Part I and Part II we may still struggle with:

1. Many _____: Why God?
2. Ongoing _____ and _____ from past and present circumstances.
3. Ongoing _____, _____, and _____.

B. The keys to overcoming the struggle:

1. _____. *Psalm 46:10*
2. _____ to God's sovereignty.

WEEK FIVE – LISTENING GUIDE

III. Facts We Must Face...as learned from the life of Joseph:

- A. God has a _____ for our lives, but Satan will attempt to _____ it. *1 Pet. 2:5–9*
- B. _____ is part of God's plan for our lives. *Phil 1:29*
- C. Others may _____ and _____ us, but God never will. *Is. 49:14–16*
- D. _____ brings bondage, but _____ brings freedom. *Gen. 45:4–8, 50:19–20*
- E. What others intend for _____, God can use for _____. *Is. 53:5, 7, 10–12*

Joseph's response to the struggles he faced: _____

IV. Truths We Must Embrace...to “cease striving” and submit to God’s sovereignty

- A. There is a _____ for _____ in life. *Ecc. 3:1*
Apply: This season is _____ for my life.
- B. God has made everything beautiful/with _____ in its time. *Ecc. 3:11a*
Apply: This season in my life has _____.
- C. God has made us long for eternal _____ in our lives. *Ecc. 3:11b*
Apply: There is eternal _____ in this season of my life.
- D. We cannot fully _____ the eternal _____ of our lives this side of eternity. *Ecc. 3:11c*

Apply: I may not _____ the eternal value of this season now, but _____, I believe God will _____ it in the future.

Final Truth: The road to contentment begins with a _____.

WEEK SIX – Rejoicing in Every Season

I. Solomon's Conclusions—*Ecc. 3:1–11*

- A. There is a season for everything in life. *Ecc. 3:1–8*
- B. God has made everything beautiful, appropriate, and with purpose in its time. *Ecc. 3:11a*
- C. God has made us long for eternal significance and meaning in our lives.. *Ecc. 3:11b*
- D. We cannot yet fully know the eternal significance, value, and purpose of our lives. *Ecc. 3:11c*

II. Solomon's Instructions—*Ecc. 3:12–14*

- A. In this study, we will call the first three instructions the _____.
- B. The first instruction, _____, is the first, _____.
 - 1. OT/Hebrew definition of rejoice¹⁶
 - to _____ up
 - to _____ up
 - to be or _____
 - 2. Ecclesiastes teaches we are to _____...
 - in our everyday, routine _____, and work. *Ecc. 3:22*
 - in our labor that we consider to be _____ and unsatisfying. *Ecc. 5:19*
 - _____ our lives; in every _____. *Ecc. 11:8–9*

III. Scripture Teaches that Joy/Rejoicing...

- A. Is the result of _____—a work of _____. *John 16:20*
- B. Cannot be _____ from us. *John 16:22*
- C. Is a _____, thus, a _____. *1 Thess. 5:16*
- D. Is to be _____. *1 Thess. 5:16, Phil. 4:4*
- E. Is the opposite of _____ / _____. *Ecc. 15:24, 16–17, Numbers 14 reveals it can cost us God's blessing.*
- F. Is often expressed in _____ and in _____. *Luke 10:21, Eph. 5:18–20*

WEEK SIX – LISTENING GUIDE

IV. Paul's Example: I can rejoice in the Lord always because...

A. Christ is my _____. *Phil. 1:12–21*

1. Despite my _____ in life (______). *Phil. 1:7, 13–14, 17*

2. By focusing on the _____ not the _____. *Phil. 1:22–23*

B. Christ is my _____. *Phil. 2:5–8, 17*

1. Despite my _____. *Phil. 2:3–4*

2. By focusing on _____, _____, and _____.
Phil. 2:3–9

C. Christ is my _____. *Phil. 3:8–15*

1. Despite my _____—the _____ and the _____. *Phil. 3:4–7*

2. By focusing on _____ Him. *Phil. 3:8–15*

D. Christ is my _____. *Phil. 4:13*

1. Despite my _____ and _____. *Phil. 4:11–19*

2. By focusing on _____ and His _____. *Phil. 4:6–19*

WEEK SEVEN – Doing Good in Every Season

I. Review

- A. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon's search for meaning in life is ultimately a search for _____ / _____ in life.
- B. In Ecclesiastes 3:12–14, we see three _____ that will enable us to experience joy, meaning, and contentment in every season of our lives.
- C. In this study, we are calling these _____, the _____.
1. Door # 1 = _____
Focus on _____
 2. Door # 2 = _____
Focus on _____

II. Scripture teaches we are to...

- A. Do good in our _____. *Ecc. 3:12*
- B. Do good with all of your _____. *Ecc. 9:10*
- C. Do good to all _____ and especially to other Christians. *Gal. 6:10*
- D. Do good as _____ rather than _____. *Col. 3:23*
- E. Do good so that _____ will see your _____ and God. *Matt. 5:14-16*

III. Questions and Answers—*Matt. 25:14–29, 1 Cor. 3:11–15*

- Q. What are the seven words every Christian longs to hear?
A. _____
- Q. Who will hear these words?
A. _____
- Q. How will we be judged?
A. _____
- Q. What will be the outcome of the judgment?
A. We will receive _____ or we will _____, but we cannot _____.

WEEK SEVEN – LISTENING GUIDE

IV. Role Models Who Will Hear, “Well Done”

A. _____ —*Acts 9:36–42*

- she was _____.
- she served the Lord by serving others _____.

B. _____ —*Rom. 16:1–2*

- she was a _____ of the church.
- she was a _____ of many, and of _____ as well.

C. _____ and _____ —*Rom. 16:3–5, Acts 18:18–28*

- fellow _____ in Christ Jesus.
- their _____ was used as a _____—good stewards.

D. _____, _____, _____, and _____ —
Rom. 16:6 and 12

- all of these were _____.
- all of these shared this in common: they _____ for the Lord.

E. _____ mother —*Rom. 16:13, Mark 15:20–21*

- ministered to Paul as a _____.
- her background: Jewish from _____ / _____.
- her husband: _____, who helped _____ Jesus’ _____.
- her _____ and _____ to Paul was an extension of her _____ for Christ.

Door # 2: Doing good..._____

WEEK EIGHT – Seeing Good in Every Season

I. Principles of Contentment

- A. _____ to the _____ about life. *Ecc. 3:1–11*
- B. _____ the _____. *Ecc. 3:12–13*
1. Door # 1 = _____: _____ God.
 2. Door # 2 = _____: _____ others.
 3. Door # 3 = _____ / _____: Focus on our attitude and our experiences.

II. Scripture teaches we are to...

- A. See good and enjoy the good of both our _____ and our _____.
Ecc. 2:24, 3:13
- B. Enjoy life with _____ we _____. *Ecc. 9:9*
- C. Recognize our life, labor, and our _____ are a _____ and _____ from God. *Ecc. 2:24, 3:13, 5:18, 9:9*

III. Enjoying your life and labor:

Principles to Practice

1. Keep your _____ God's _____. *Matt. 6:31–34*.
2. _____ in the _____. *Ps. 37:4, 90:14, 100:2, 16:11*
3. Stop _____ about everything and start _____ about everything. *Phil. 4:6–8*
4. _____ your _____ often. *Ps. 103:1–14*
5. Recognize your _____ and accept its _____, and embrace its _____. *Ecc. 3:1–8*
6. _____ your schedule and your _____. *2 Cor. 11:3*
7. Stop trying to _____ _____. *Luke 4:14–30*

WEEK EIGHT – LISTENING GUIDE

8. Make the _____ a regular part of your life: _____, _____, and _____. *Gen. 2:1–3, 1 Tim. 6:17*
9. Purposefully plan and schedule _____. *Ecc. 3:4*
10. Practice _____. *Rom. 12:10a, 13b*

WEEK NINE – The Key to Contentment

I. Principles of _____:

A. Submit to the _____. *Ecc. 3:1–11*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

B. Practice the _____. *Ecc. 3:12–13*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

C. Use the _____.

II. Scripture teaches we are to fear the Lord because:

A. His works and His ways are _____ and _____. *Ecc. 3:14*

B. _____ will be _____ for those who fear Him, and
_____ will **not** be _____ for those who do not fear Him.
Ecc. 8:12–13

C. It is the final conclusion, the _____ that applies to every person.
Ecc. 12:13

D. It is linked to _____ God / _____ His
commandments. *Ecc. 12:13*

E. God will bring every _____ to _____. *Ecc. 12:14*

WEEK NINE – LISTENING GUIDE

III. What does it mean to fear the Lord?:

- A. It involves **BOTH** _____ and _____.
1. _____: _____ to God because of His power and position.
 2. _____: results in the _____ to please Him **AND** the _____ to obey Him.
- B. Therefore, if I say I fear the Lord I will _____ **AND** _____ Him.

IV. Three who feared the Lord:

- A. _____ *Gen. 6:5–9, 13, 22, Heb. 11:7*
- B. _____ *Gen. 22:1–3, 5, 12, 15–18*
- C. _____ *Ex. 1:17, 21*

These examples reveal that _____, _____, _____, _____, and blessing are all characteristics of those who fear the Lord.

V. Choosing Contentment:

- A. I *cannot* unlock the doors to contentment by...
- waiting until I _____ rejoicing,
 - waiting for my _____ or my _____ to improve before I do good,
 - or waiting until I can _____ the value of all I'm doing.
- B. I *can* unlock the doors to contentment when I _____ to...
- rejoice,
 - do good,
 - and see good
because I _____.

WEEK TEN – The Harmony of Proverbs 31 and Ecclesiastes 1

I. You should not be content with...

- A. An _____ . *Gen. 2:18–25, Col. 3:18–19,
Eph. 5:22–29, 1 Cor. 7:10–15*
- B. Any _____ in your life. *1 John 3:9, 1 John 1:9*
- C. A lack of _____ . *1 Pet. 2:2, 2 Pet. 3:18*
- D. Anything less than _____ - _____ devotion and love for the Lord.
Matt. 22:37

II. Evaluating the Model Woman and Solomon

In Every Season of Life...

The Model Woman

- Possessed genuine faith in God
- Believed God's commands
- Practiced God's commands
- Feared God
- Experienced joy and meaning in life
- Experienced satisfaction/contentment

Solomon

- Possessed genuine faith in God
- Believed God's commands
- Practiced God's commands
- Feared God
- Experienced joy and meaning in life
- Experienced satisfaction/contentment

Their legacies...

The Model Woman's life is an _____ for all of us to _____ because she chose to _____ and _____ the Lord fully throughout every season of her life.

Solomon's life is a _____ for all of us to _____ because he chose not to _____ and _____ the Lord fully throughout every season of his life.

III. Following God Fully

A. The Example: *Christ*

1. He fully _____ Himself of His _____ as God. *Phil 2:5-7*
2. He fully _____ all righteousness. *Matt. 3:15*
3. He fully _____ each of His miracles. *Matt. 4:23, 8:16, 14:20, John 2:3–10*
4. He fully _____ the penalty of our sin. *John 19:30*

B. The Motive: *Jesus fully gave so that we could experience _____ to the _____.* *John 10:10*

C. The Call: “_____” is Jesus’ high call to us. *Matt. 4:19, 8:22*

D. The Requirements:

1. _____ love. *Matt. 10:37*
2. _____. *Matt. 10:38*
3. Self-_____. *Matt. 10:39*

E. The Result: *Those who fully follow Christ throughout every season of their lives will experience “life to the full”—_____ and _____ in this life—and they will leave _____ for others to follow.*