"Be Content"

(for children & teens)

Content = Satisfied; To be happy with what I have.

Man's basic greedy, covetous nature -- all propel him to seek something new...different...better...more. (Lust, envy, & greed are expressions of discontentment)

As toddlers we wanted someone else's toy. Rarely content with what we had.

As children, we are not content in grade school: "Oh, if I could only be in Jr. High" . . . "High school" . . . "College" . . . "Out in the ministry" etc.

As teenagers, we were not content being a son or daughter, we wanted the independence of adulthood.

When we became adults, we became dicontent with our careers, so we hopped from one employment opportunity to another.
(John the Baptist said: "Be content with your wages" (Lk. 3:13).)

Then married and with time became discontent with our spouse.

When God blessed our homes with children we compared them to others' kids and said "why can't you be like _____?"

Grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

EX: Lucifer was not content in his great position which he held.

A content person is one who is satisfied with his/her lot (portion) in life, whether that portion be: possessions, position, or relationships.

ILLUS: of Paul's contentment: Phil. 4:11-13 - *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

1 Tim. 6:8
And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Hebrews 13:5
Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Heb 13:5 *Let your* conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (NKJV)

Examples of Discontentment:

- Israel & the Quail
  (Ps 106:15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.)
- David & Bathsheba (2Sa 11:3)
- Judas & the Bag of Money (John 12:6)
- Ahab & Naboth's Vineyard (I Kings 21)

The opposite of being content is three letters: contention. Those who strive against what God wants for them always have lives characterized by struggle, strife, and conflict.

"Contentment makes poor men rich; discontentment makes rich men poor." (Ben Franklin)

The most joy-filled people I know are not those with the "nicest" things in life, but are those who are content with what they have.

Practice THANKFULNESS daily. Thank God for your Salvation; Job; Marital status; Wife/Husband; Children; Church; etc.

Be content with your family; toys/games; food (in the school lunch room); clothes. Etc.