

Topic: Character – Content (Lesson 424)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “...being satisfied with the things which are at hand...” (Hebrews 13:5b).

Focus: A content person is someone who is pleased and satisfied with the things they have. They are grateful for the things they have and do not demand more.

Practical Application: Ask the children to consider the family, home, clothes, food, and toys they have and to consider what others may not have. Impress them that even though they may think they only have a few things, these may be much more than what another child has. They should be thankful for what they have and not always try to get more. Consider telling stories of children from poorer countries.

Intermediate:

Verse: “But having food and covering, with these we will be content” (1 Timothy 6:8).

Focus: A content person is someone who is pleased and satisfied with the things they have. They do not complain about the things which they do not have.

Practical Application: Ask the children how many pieces of a certain clothing they have (e.g. shoes, hats, etc.) or how many different kinds of toys they have or if they have their own room/space at home. Contrast how many other children do not have as much if even close to what they have. We need to be those who are thankful for what we have and not complain that we don't have more of or the latest of something.

Advanced:

Verses: “...I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content” (Philippians 4:11b).
“...It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35c).

Focus: A content person is someone who is pleased and satisfied with the things they have because they are willing to limit themselves in what they require or desire. Content people are willing to give to others the things they have rather than requiring or wanting more for themselves.

Practical Application: Consider with the children the difference between need and want. We may need shoes but do we need a pair in five different designs/colors? We may need a shirt but do we need to buy the one that is the latest in fashion? Those who are content are those who give to others who need something rather than try to get more of something because they want it but don't need it.