



## Small Group Study Guide

# The Faith We Sing

April 18, 2021  
“It is Well  
With My Soul”

### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving the letters of the Apostle Paul for us to study. Although we don't like adversity and tension in our lives, we know that is where you seem to get our attention. So Father, as we study Paul's wisdom on living a life of contentment, give us eyes to see our circumstances the way you see it and teach us the secret of contentment. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

#### Philippians 4:10-13 (NIV)

*<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

## INTRODUCTION

Horatio Spafford had to face unspeakable tragedies in his life. His son died with pneumonia in 1871, and in that same year, much of their business was lost in the great Chicago fire. In 1873, his four daughters died on a ship that sank in the Atlantic Ocean. That tragedy prompted him to pen the words to the hymn “It Is Well with My Soul.” All of us know that wonderful hymn, but is it really possible to be well in your soul in the midst of tragedy?

We all face circumstances that stir deep discontentment within us. Relationships break, careers crumble, and dreams die. These things happen to everyone. But when it’s happening to you, you feel like you’re the only one who faces loss. The secret of contentment is Christ in you, empowering you. Think about your primary source of discontentment. You can’t, but he can and he will through you.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Talk about a season in your life when you were fully content. What was it about that season that fed your contentment?
- 2) Do you know someone who lives with pervasive discontentment? If so, how does that discontentment affect the quality of his or her life?
- 3) Read Philippians 4:10–13 on page 1. Does the kind of contentment the apostle Paul describes seem achievable in your own life? Why or why not?
- 4) What are some things that make it difficult for you to believe God may do extraordinary and unexpected things through your challenging circumstances?
- 5) How would your current season look different if you were able to resist the forces, pressures, and temptations of your circumstances?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What is your primary source of discontentment right now? What is one thing you can do to live with more contentment from the knowledge that you can’t change your circumstances, but Jesus can?