

Why do we need think we need so much stuff? Why do we keep ourselves so busy? In her wise, biblically minded, practical voice, Sharla helps us all think through why we strive so hard to get “enough” in so many areas of our lives. And then she leads us step by step back to the cross, the one place we will truly find enough. Don’t miss this perspective-changing study!

Afton Rorvik, author of *Storm Sisters: Friends through All Seasons*

Sharla’s done it again. It’s like she has a camera into my heart. She relates to the hurts, challenges, and frustrations of everyday life. She opens God’s Word and teaches me to dig deeper and absorb more. A broken wanter, messed-up desires, the God of sufficiency, enough for now . . . WOW! God fills every day with enough for now. When I quit trying to store up an abundance for the future and instead concentrate on the gifts God has given, my heart is full, my soul content; it’s enough! Thanks for once again speaking truth exactly where and when I needed to hear it.

Teresa Nelson, LCMS Foundation

Whether you are reeling between the simplicity clause and the abundance dynamic, Sharla leads you thoughtfully through a powerful study that doesn’t heap platitudes or easy answers to our challenge of more and more. With transparent stories highlighting her own struggles, Sharla opens the door of possibility to a life that is “rich toward God.” How does a God of sufficiency meet us with an eternity mind-set, in the margin, to be exceptional in the ordinary? This study offers four levels of depth to move you gently along in a life of holy longing toward the “freedom of living a life of trust.”

Connie Denninger, Visual Faith Ministry

Thank you, Sharla Fritz, for writing a Bible study every one of us needs. We live in a culture of endless shopping, constant eating, exhausting busyness, and too many commitments. Collecting all this stuff isn’t working for us though. We’re already stuffed too full of clutter, food, and stress. In this insightful new study, your heart will be retuned to God’s truth. Your completeness is in your Savior’s love. Through His sacrifice on the cross, you are already enough.

Christina Hergenrader, author of *Family Trees and Olive Branches*,
Love Rules, and *Last Summer at Eden*

Spot-on relevance for Christ followers living in a self-focused, broken world. This engaging study pokes at the heart of a tough issue. Sharla Fritz draws readers to self reflection and growth with her transparent, genuine style. Whether you gather your friends for a deep dive or go this experience alone, the solid biblical base will support you in the journey.

Linda Arnold, Women's Leadership Institute

In a world where we're continually told we need more (more stuff, status, self-confidence), it's no wonder we wrestle with having—and being—"enough." Enticed by promises that "more" will satisfy what's lacking in our lives, we attempt to fill a God-shaped hole with all kinds of things that don't fit, and we're left longing for more. After all, how much is enough? Can "more" really satisfy? Sharla speaks to our hearts as she tackles this timely topic with authenticity, truth, and grace!

Through engaging stories and compelling Scripture study, Sharla provides tools that help us discover what—and how much—is "enough." And this study doesn't stop there. Sharla provides engaging exercises that enable us to dig deeper into Scripture, apply the Word to our lives, and "cultivate enough" through unique group activities—to live out what we're learning together.

Learn what it looks like to rest in the God of sufficiency and His grace for you in Jesus. Receive His perfect provision, for He alone is the One who knows your needs more than you do; the One who truly satisfies your soul's longings—for now AND for eternity. Are you yearning to learn what satisfies? Our heavenly Father has the answer. We find "enough" in Him!

Deb Burma, author of *Joy*

Who doesn't struggle with feeling, having, or being enough? Sharla writes from an honest place about her own struggle for sufficiency. Her stories are relatable and engaging. There is room in the pages to engage with the text and guidance for group leaders to help digest the study's contents thoroughly. Sharla provides a very thoughtful and purposeful approach to the content, and many will be blessed by her attention to detail and storytelling! *Enough for Now* provides practical insights and biblical applications for our own journey toward sufficiency and points to the only one who can provide it—Jesus!

Darcy Paape, Women's Leadership Institute
and author of *Someone to Walk With*

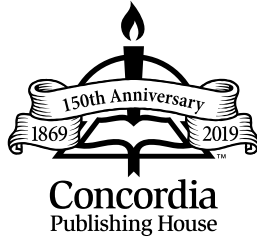
enough
for
now

Unpacking
God's Sufficiency

A Bible Study by
SHARLA FRITZ

Dedication

To my family—one of this life's greatest blessings.
Thank you for helping me to live with enough for now.



Founded in 1869 as the publishing arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Concordia Publishing House gives all glory to God for the blessing of 150 years of opportunities to provide resources that are faithful to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

Published by Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • cph.org

Copyright © 2019 Sharla Fritz

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Quotations marked KJV are from the King James or Authorized Version of the Bible.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV™ are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Quotations marked *LSB* are from *Lutheran Service Book*, copyright © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Quotations from *The Lutheran Study Bible* © 2009 by Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Catechism quotations are from *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, copyright © 1986, 2017 Concordia Publishing House.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Table of Contents

Introduction	9
Using This Book	11
Chapter 1: What Is Enough?	13
Chapter 2: Enough Money	27
Chapter 3: Enough Stuff	45
Chapter 4: Enough Food	61
Chapter 5: Enough Relationships	77
Chapter 6: Enough Time	93
Chapter 7: Enough of Me	111
Chapter 8: Enough for Now	127
Epilogue	143
Study Guide	147
Closing Activity	203
Parting Thoughts	205
Acknowledgments	207
Answers	209
Notes	219

INTRODUCTION

I scan the rows of shoes in my closet. I need just the right pair to go with my new outfit. I can choose from pumps, flats, wedges, sandals, and sneakers—a shoe for every occasion. I grab a pair of low-heeled sandals for walking the quaint main street of a nearby town with my husband. And on that walk is where I see them! A perfect pair of red pumps beckoning me from behind a plate glass window. My husband playfully pulls me past the store and says, “You have twenty-five pairs of shoes at home!” But suddenly fifty shoes are not enough.

I return home from lunch with a friend. This woman has walked with me through the struggles of raising kids, church life, and family health problems. Breathing a silent prayer of thanks for friends like her, I feel content—until I log on to Facebook and see pictures of a party I wasn’t invited to. I’m grateful for the bond with my understanding friend. But now it doesn’t seem like enough.

I successfully achieve a goal that has simmered on the back burner of my mind for years. After months and months of work, I celebrate the finished project. Excitement and relief fill my heart. Until I discover that someone else has done it better than me. Already grabbed the attention. Received the praise. My personal success is no longer enough.

What is enough? The word *enough* means “adequate for the want or need; sufficient or able to satisfy desire.” Most of us have enough to meet our needs. But our desires? That’s another story.

We live in a culture that constantly strives for more. We fill closets with more clothes and shoes. We stuff garages with more cars and tools, and when we run out of space, we rent storage units for our stuff. We cram our calendars with more activities. In order to get ahead, we take on more responsibilities and strategize more goals. Our bank account balance tells us we need more money, and social media tells us we need more followers.

Do we ever slow down to ask ourselves, “Do I really need more?” Could it be that the accumulation of “more” stuffs our closets but drains our energy? Does the amassing of activities fill our calendars but empty our souls? Perhaps the popularity of stories about the Amish way of life and blogs about minimalism demonstrate that we’re sick of excess. We long for simplicity and yet we struggle with the question, what is enough?

As a Christian, I know I should be satisfied. I want to be like David and say, “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not *want*” (Psalm 23:1, emphasis added). Or like Paul, who declared, “In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need” (Philippians 4:12). But I continue to struggle. Even though I have done intense Bible study on contentment and have read oodles of books on the subject, satisfaction usually stands just out of reach. I still wrestle with “enough.”

So, this book won’t be telling you how to find “the secret of enough” in three easy steps. It isn’t a memoir journaling my yearlong journey of selling all my stuff and moving into a 500-square-foot tiny home.

Instead, this volume chronicles my journey to the God of sufficiency. It tells how I learned that our insatiable desire for enough can drive us to God instead of propelling us toward more money, more stuff, more activity. It asks, “What is enough?” and helps us go to the Father for the right answer.

We each come to this search for enough from different situations. Some of you may be experiencing lean years—perhaps most months have more days than funds. Others of you may have plenty—at least plenty of stuff in your closets, basements, and garages. I have been in both situations and know that in both scenarios, we can still strain and strive for more.

Throughout this book, we will study Jesus’ parable of the rich fool—a man who had so much more than enough that he built bigger barns to hold the overflowing excess. Like most of us, he based his happiness on having an ample supply. But Jesus taught that we can’t find the secret of true riches by storing goods. We won’t find security through accumulation.

This book is not meant to make you feel guilty about how much you own or don’t own. Instead, it explores what God has to say on the topic of enough. It contains a set of tools to help you discover how much is enough for you. And it shines a light on a path to the God of sufficiency, who longs to satisfy our souls with Himself so we can confidently say, “I have enough—for now.”

USING THIS BOOK

Each chapter of *Enough for Now* explores the concept of “enough” in a different area: money, stuff, food, relationships, time, and self-image. These are not easy topics—don’t be surprised if your ideas about them are challenged. But even while you examine these concepts, the book will encourage you to focus on the God of sufficiency and His grace.

You may choose to explore the idea of “enough” by reading the book straight through. Each chapter includes

- memory verses;
- historical information about life in Bible times;
- questions for reflection and discussion;
- prayer prompts; and
- practical ideas for exercising “enough.”

In addition to reading about “enough,” I hope you will also take time to go deeper into the subject by engaging in the Bible study questions in the Study Guide beginning on page 147. These questions will help you to

- reflect on the reading;
- dig into Scripture;
- apply the lessons to your life; and
- cultivate “enough” through creative projects.

I encourage you to gather a few others to join you on this journey to “enough.” Sharing the struggle to find contentment in a broken world will help your group draw closer to God and to one another. The study is designed to be completed in eight weeks, but if your meeting time is short or you simply want to take the journey more slowly, you may want to take two weeks for every chapter. In that case, you could complete the reading, answer the questions contained within the reading, and respond to the “Reflect on the Reading” questions in the Study Guide one week, then complete the “Dig into Scripture,” “Apply the Word to Your Life,” and “Cultivate

Enough” sections the next week. The “Cultivate Enough” projects may be especially enjoyable to complete as a group.

As you study, remember to

- begin with prayer;
- rely on Scripture to guide your discussions; and
- keep what is shared confidential unless you are given permission to share outside the group.

May the Lord bless you as you find “enough” in Him.

WHAT IS ENOUGH?

Memory Verse:

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32

Not long ago, a local charity called and asked if I had any clothing or household goods I would like to donate. Of course I did.

In fact, I had just finished reorganizing my bookshelves, closets, and cabinets. On the day of the charity pickup, I set out four large boxes of books, two boxes of CDs and vinyl records (yes, I still had some of the old-school technology), and five garbage bags of out-of-date clothes.

I sent these things to a new home with joy, but there was a depressing aspect to this process. Even after getting rid of all those boxes of books, CDs, and clothes, my house didn't look much different. My closets still bulged with clothes. My bookshelves still held hundreds of books.

Clearly, if all my storage spaces still swelled with possessions—even after giving away a hundred pounds of stuff—I had too much. Why had I felt I needed more when I already had plenty? Why had my husband's wisecrack limiting me to no more than a hundred sweaters and fifty shoes struck me as a challenge instead of a warning? Why did I search for more?

The Problem of Enough

What is enough? The human race has always struggled with finding equilibrium between “not enough” and “too much.” Satan, the world, and our own human nature continually make us yearn for more.

It all started back in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had everything they could want: delicious food, rewarding work without any problems, delightful weather. They didn't need anything. And yet, Satan knew how to tempt them—to make them think they didn't have enough.

God had given Adam and Eve permission to eat from any tree in the garden—except one. He told them if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die (Genesis 2:16–17). Satan, however, tried to convince them otherwise. He said, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:4–5). He insinuated that God was holding out on them. He tempted the first couple to want more—to be like God. Suddenly all the Creator had given seemed insufficient.

Satan continues to tempt us with the idea of more. He tries to tell us God is withholding His best from us. He whispers that what we currently have couldn't possibly be enough.

Exercising Enough

Take a minute to think about where you struggle with “enough.” In which of these areas do you feel the greatest deficit?

Money _____

Stuff _____

Food _____

Relationships _____

Time _____

Yourself _____

What do you hope to gain from this book?

Satan isn't the only one. The world constantly bombards us with the message that what we have is insufficient. Television commercials tell us we deserve a luxury car. Internet ads inform us we need a week in Bermuda. Every roadside billboard, every gas pump video, every glossy magazine ad screams, “More!”

Our own human nature continually wages war against “enough.” When I was growing up, the Frito-Lay commercial that interrupted my favorite television shows told me, “No one can eat just one.” And it was true—one potato chip was never enough. I always wanted another—and another—and another.

This insatiable desire for more doesn’t stop with salty snacks. I’m convinced that ever since Adam and Eve gave in to an appetite for forbidden fruit and a thirst to be like God, we have been stuck with broken “wanters.” The part of us that hungers and thirsts and desires developed serious defects in the fall. Now, I possess a wanter that can make me crave a huge slice of chocolate cheesecake even after

I’ve had soup, salad, and an enormous platter of chicken marsala. A wanter that can make me long for those adorable red pumps in the shoe store window even though I have twenty-five pairs of shoes in the closet. Our broken wanters prevent us from attaining enough.

In fact, our wanters are so broken that we sometimes have difficulty discerning our true desires. Because of widespread damaged wanters, a new profession has sprung up. For only two hundred dollars an hour, you can hire a “wantologist”—someone who will help you distinguish what you really want from what you only *think* you want. For instance, you might go to a wantology session with a wish for a promotion at work and leave with the realization that what you *really* want is to quit your job.¹ Because of our broken wanters, we don’t know what will actually satisfy our souls. So, we continually search for the next bauble, the next promotion, the next relationship that promises happiness.

Even more serious, our broken wanters compel us to yearn for wrong things. Our damaged desire factories make us crave rocky road ice cream instead of broccoli. Sleep on Sunday mornings seems more appealing than worshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Because of our sinful nature, we don’t gravitate toward the wholesome or the virtuous. We continually want more than what God has deemed good.

On our own, we are incapable of achieving enough.

The human race has always struggled with finding equilibrium between “not enough” and “too much.”

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN EVIDENCE OF A BROKEN WANTER IN YOURSELF?
CAN YOU GIVE AN EXAMPLE?

The Rich Man and Enough

Jesus knew about our broken wanters. He saw our tendency toward greed and covetousness. He understood our constant drift toward excess and overindulgence. In Luke 12, He told a story about a rich man who had a problem with enough.

The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, “What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?” And he said, “I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God. (Luke 12:16–21)

Clearly, this man had enough to start with. He had wealth. The Greek word for “land” in verse 16 is *chora*, which is usually translated as “country” or “region.” This man owned a huge estate. He already had barns—barns more than adequate for a well-to-do life.

But when his land produced a bumper crop, his first reaction was not thankfulness. He didn’t praise God for the abundance. Instead, the reality of plenty made him anxious. He worried, “What shall I do?” You can almost see him wringing his hands and pacing the floor.

The rich man came up with a solution. He would stockpile the extra

food. He would store additional supplies. And he told his *soul* that when he had more, he would be happy.

FARMING IN ISRAEL

Farmers plowed and sowed seed during the first part of the rainy season—October or November. Heavier rains, which watered the crops, usually came in December and continued through March or April. Harvest time varied with the topography of the land. People in the lowlands began harvesting at the end of April, while farmers in the hills brought in their crops in May or early June. Grain was harvested with a sickle and bound into sheaves. These sheaves were then taken to the threshing floor to dry. When dry, the farmer used animals or simple machines to thresh the grain, separating the grain from the straw and chaff. Next, he winnowed the grain by tossing it up into the air and letting the lighter chaff blow away, while the good grain settled back on the threshing floor. Finally, the grain was stored in barns.²

Two thousand years later, this story still rings true. Jesus could have inserted my name in this story. I don't have any barns or silos in my backyard, but I have had the same thoughts. Even though God has never let me go hungry, even though I've always had enough money to pay the bills, I have reasoned, "If I only had more, then I would be satisfied."

So how can we "find enough" in a world that constantly tells us we need more?

Desire and Disordered Loves

The first step in finding enough is acknowledging our broken wanters and the serious consequences of our messed-up desires. When Jesus told the parable of the rich fool, He began with a caution to His listeners:

Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.
(Luke 12:15)

Jesus warns us we need to post a guard, be on the defensive. The Greek word is *phylasso*, which means "to guard against something for our own safety." And what are we to guard against? Covetousness. This Greek word means "the greedy desire to have more."

Jesus is saying, "Greed is a serious problem. So, beware. Watch out. Be

very wary and careful. There is danger in always wanting more.” Why is that? Jesus explains we can’t base the good life on the abundance of possessions. Although car manufacturers and clothes designers want us to think our happiness depends on buying their products, genuine and full life does not consist of what we keep in our garages or closets. Society may define us by the

We get in trouble when we look for “enough” in other places besides God.

size of our house or the name on our handbag, but thankfully Jesus does not. Instead, He warns that if we believe the myth that our lives will be better when we have more, we will never find satisfaction.

It isn’t necessarily wrong to have yearnings and desires. It isn’t sinful to want to fill the emptiness inside. King David tells us God hears our desires; He bends down to hear our frantic prayers (Psalm 10:17). Jesus promises, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened” (Matthew 7:7–8). He invites us to ask for the things we want, to seek out our desires, to knock on doors yet unopened.

The problem comes when we want the wrong things or try to get what we want in the wrong way. Augustine, the fourth-century Bishop of Hippo,

Jesus warns that if we believe the myth that our lives will be better when we have more, we will never find satisfaction.

called these “disordered loves” or “corrupted longings.”³ Martin Luther warned against wanting something so much that we are willing to scheme to obtain it or get it in a way that only appears right.⁴

Difficulty arises when we chase the things the world holds out as the solution to our hunger, thirst, or passion—but they don’t truly satisfy. Augustine wrote, “Love longs for some object to be, loves to rest itself in the thing beloved. But in things there is no enduring place to lie. They don’t last. They run away.”⁵ Like the rich man in Jesus’ parable, we think we can rest when we have stored up the object of our desire, but all earthly things eventually melt away like an ice pop on a hot summer day.

We get in trouble when we look for “enough” in other places besides God—when we search for adequacy by trying to fill our bank accounts, closets, and calendars. When we search for satisfaction in having a perfect family or a successful career. Difficulty comes when our wanting drives us anywhere but to deeper trust in God. In her book *Teach Us to Want*, author Jen Pollock Michel writes about the relationship between desire and trust:

And here is how desire becomes corrupt: wanting derails into selfishness, greed, and demanding ingratitude when we’ve failed to recognize and receive the good that God has already given. Trust is at the center of holy desire: trust that God is good and wills good for his people. We trust in asking; we trust in receiving. Holy trust believes that whatever God chooses to give is enough.⁶

Let’s begin this journey to “enough” by confessing our disordered desires. Michel writes, “Admitting the doctrine of sin is critical to any faithful conversation about desire.”⁷ Let’s ask ourselves, “What wrong things have I craved? What good things have I wanted enough to obtain them wrongly? When have I abandoned holy trust, which accepts what God gives as enough?” As we take an honest inventory of our wants and wishes and repent of any sinful attempts to find “enough,” we can receive forgiveness from Jesus, who paid the price for all our sin.

COVETING

This sin of covetousness is listed in the Ten Commandments:

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s. (Exodus 20:17)

In the Small Catechism, Luther said this of the Ninth and Tenth Commandments:

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor’s wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

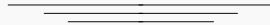
O GOD OF SUFFICIENCY,

I admit that I have believed the myth that my life would be better if I just had a little more—a little more money, a little more popularity, a little more recognition. I have wanted wrong things and have pursued good things in wrong ways. I have looked for contentment in what the world offers instead of in You, and I have been sorely disappointed.

Thank You for reminding me that You are the God of sufficiency. You are the good Father who sees my needs. You tell me You are pleased to give me the kingdom—more than I can imagine. I am overwhelmed when I think of all Jesus went through so that I could have a relationship with You. You fill my soul with joy and peace.

Help me to trust You with all my desires. Because I know Your true nature of goodness, this should be easy, but sometimes I doubt.

Enable me to lay all of my longings on Your altar with the faith that You will satisfy them in the best way possible. In Jesus' name. Amen.



STUDY GUIDE

Go further on your journey to “enough” by delving into the pages of Scripture. The study questions that follow will help you discover how God leads us to find “enough for now,” even in this broken and disappointing world. I have organized the questions in levels—not levels of difficulty, but levels of time.

LEVEL 1: Reflect on the Reading. If you have only fifteen minutes, complete this section. These questions will help you reflect on the chapter’s lessons and make them more personal. If you are doing the study in a group, these questions will also start conversation flowing.

LEVEL 2: Dig into Scripture. If you have more time, dive deeper into the Word by doing a verse -mapping exercise. The process is explained in the study questions for chapter 1. It may look daunting, but it only takes ten to twelve minutes, especially if you use online tools.

LEVEL 3: Apply the Word to Your Life. At this level, you will discover how the principles of contentment and finding enough can be used in your ordinary days.

LEVEL 4: Cultivate Enough. These activities will help you internalize what you learned. You will experience the knowledge in new ways through practical exercises, art, music, and hands-on activities.

To get the most out of this study, I encourage you to complete all the levels. But life is hectic—do what you can!

May the activities in this study guide lead you closer to the God of sufficiency—the only source of “enough.”

The Author

CHAPTER 1 **WHAT IS ENOUGH?** STUDY QUESTIONS

Reflect on the Reading

1. If a local charity called you today and asked if you had any clothing or small household goods to donate, how would you respond?

2. Look up the word *enough* in a thesaurus. Take note of some of the synonyms. Use some of these synonyms to write your own definition of *enough*.

3. Place an **X** on the line below to indicate your general satisfaction with your life.
_____ I don't have enough.
_____ I have enough.
_____ I have too much.
Why did you place the **X** there?

Dig into Scripture

In each chapter of this book, you will dig deeper into God's Word through verse mapping. This method of Bible study researches everything about a verse to learn more about God and what He wants for you. It helps you to take the verse apart, examine each element, and then put it back together with a greater understanding. We will research context, translations, cross-references, and word meanings. Here's how:

WRITE:

Write out the verse from your favorite translation. Highlight the most important words.

CONTEXT:

Look at what is happening in Scripture before and after this verse.

TRANSLATIONS:

Look up this verse in other translations/versions of the Bible. An easy tool to use for this is **BibleGateway.com**. You can also use a parallel Bible or the other versions you have on your shelf.

CROSS-REFERENCES:

If you have a study Bible, it will include cross-references—a list of verses related to the one you are studying. You can also use an online Bible for this.

WORD MEANINGS:

Next, take a closer look at the words you originally highlighted when you first wrote out the verse. Find each word in a dictionary and write out the meaning. If you want to find out the meaning of the word in the language in which it was originally written in, you can use **BlueLetterBible.com**. Type in the verse, then click “Tools” beside the verse. The interlinear Bible will show you each word along with the original Greek or Hebrew word. Click on the Strong’s number and it will give you the meaning of the word. Write out the meanings that apply to the verse you are studying.

PARAPHRASE:

Now that you have dissected the verse, put it back together. Using what you have learned through other translations, context, cross-references, and word study, write out the verse in your own words. Remember, we are not rewriting the Bible but internalizing the meaning by writing a paraphrase faithful to the holy authors.

On the next two pages, I have done a verse map of 1 Timothy 6:6–7. Then it’s your turn to try it with Luke 12:32.

ANSWERS

Note: For the “Dig into Scripture” sections where individual words are examined, the English Standard Version of the Bible was used. Definitions were drawn from BlueLetterBible.org and Dictionary.com.

CHAPTER 1

Reflect on the Reading: 1. Answers will vary. 2. Synonyms for *enough*: sufficient, ample, bounteous, satisfying, abundance. 3. Answers will vary.

Dig into Scripture: Verse mapping: Luke 12:32. **Context:** Before this verse, Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool to emphasize the dangers of greed. After this verse, Jesus urges His followers to be ready for His return. **Other versions:** Answers will vary. **Cross-references:** Possible answers: Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 10:31; Matthew 7:7; Matthew 13:11–12. **Word meanings:** Possible answers: *Fear*—Greek *phobeō*: to fear, to be afraid; English: a distressing emotion caused by impending danger, whether real or imagined. *Good pleasure*—Greek *eudokeō*: to choose or determine, to do willingly, to be well pleased with; English: enjoyment or satisfaction. *Give*—Greek *didōmi*: to give something of one’s own accord, to bestow a gift; English: to give voluntarily without expecting anything in return. *Kingdom*—Greek *basileia*: kingship, dominion, rule, the territory belonging to a king, the blessings and benefits of God’s heavenly kingdom; English: a realm or sphere of independent control. **Paraphrase:** Answers will vary but may include something like this: Don’t be afraid. You are like little sheep who don’t know what they need. But your heavenly Father knows exactly what you need, and it makes Him happy to give you blessings from His eternal kingdom.

Apply the Word to Your Life: 1. a. Answers will vary. b. Answers will vary. c. The rich man thinks he will be happy and satisfied when he has “ample goods laid up for many years” (v. 19). d. Answers will vary. 2. a. Answers will vary. b. We are anxious when we think we don’t have enough. The rich man was anxious even when he had too much, wondering where to put it. c. The Father knows what we need. d. Answers will vary. e. Answers will vary.

Cultivate Enough: Answers will vary.