

# simple.

ORDERING OUR LIVES AROUND WHAT REALLY MATTERS



ME + YOU

JUNE 2024

The natural current of our culture and our sinful condition pulls us toward “more”: More accomplishments, more income, more square footage, more views, more commitments.

In this 3-week series, we’re going to examine the slower, simpler, lighter way of life into which Jesus calls us.

Enjoy listening to the 3 sessions from Kyle Idleman (from Southeast Christian Church) and working through the discussion questions.

# SIMPLE, BUT NOT EASY

## (session 1)

Looking back over the past decade, what are some ways your life has become more complex? How has the technology that promised to make your life easier actually made it more cluttered?

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In what ways would a simpler life be comforting to you?

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In what ways would it challenge you?

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**Read Matthew 7:24-27.** What are some of the “foundations” people build upon in our day? How does Jesus offer a better foundation?

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What "storms" have you experienced in your life?

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How did those storms reveal the foundation you were building on?

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How does the firm foundation Jesus provides help us to stay focused in times of suffering and pain?

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Kyle reminded us that habits are the "invisible architecture of our daily lives". As you look forward to the remainder of 2024, what new habits can help you solidify your foundation?

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## SIMPLE WITH [SCHEDULE]

(session 2)

**Read Luke 10:38-42.** As you read through the story, make a note of which sister you most identify with. How would you have felt if you had been in their place? How would you have felt about the other sister? How would you have felt about what Jesus said?

As Kyle pointed out, three adjectives describe Martha in this passage: Distracted, Worried, and Upset (Annoyed). Is there one of these words you identify with more than the others? How do you see this revealed in your own life?

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It's been said that "continuous partial attention is the new normal". Think back over this past week. How have you seen it in your home / in your work place / in yourself?

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How do distractions keep us from deeper relationships?

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How do distractions keep us from deeper communion with God?

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What are some practices that can help reclaim our attention?

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Immediately before Luke's account of Mary and Martha, Luke 10:25-28 tells us about the greatest commands in the Law. What, according to that passage, are the greatest commandments? What does this teach us about the importance of relationships?

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# SIMPLE WITH STUFF

## (session 3)

In what ways does our world encourage us to use money for selfish ends?

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We tend to think “more” is always better.

How does having more money/stuff make our lives more complicated?

Why do you think money/possessions have this kind of counterintuitive effect on us?

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**Read Luke 21:1-4.** What made the widow’s offering different from the others that day?

What does this teach us about how Jesus views generosity?

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As Kyle pointed out, money is often held out as the ultimate idol in our world. In what ways does money promise to do what only God can do?

Psalm 24:1 makes it clear that everything already belongs to God. What's one step you can take this week to help you remember that it all belongs to Him?

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.** What does a “cheerful” giver look like? If you struggle in the area of being a “cheerful” giver, what needs to change?

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