



Simplify – “Let God’s Word Lead” Pastor Cathy Burkholder // January 30-31, 2016

We are in our fourth and final week of our series called *Simplify*, a study on how to unclutter not just our schedules, but also how to unclutter our lives. When you simplify your life, in essence what you’re trying to do is to remove the clutter so you can live in freedom and with focus on things that really, really matter. And not just for your life, there are times we think it’s all about us, but our decisions impact those around us. Whenever we make a right decision it impacts not only our lives but our friends and our family (children & grandchildren). Decisions you make to honor God in your 20’s and 30’s will influence future generations. God will honor the decisions in your life as you allow His spirit to direct your steps.

Warm it Up

What are some of the decisions you made in your 20’s or 30’s that have impacted your life today?

Do you remember the first time someone read the Bible to you or you read it for yourself? Share your experience.

Talk it over

1. Psalm 119:9-16 highlights a series of promises made to those who live by the Word of God. Which phrases seem to leap out at you, and why?

Psalm 119:9-16:

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

I seek you with all my heart;

Do not let me stray from your commands.

I have hidden your word in my heart

That I might not sin against you.

Praise be to you, LORD;

*Teach me your decrees.
With my lips I recount
All the laws that come from your mouth.
I rejoice in following your statutes
As one rejoices in great riches.
I meditate on your precepts
And consider your ways.*

2. How much weight do you place on the wisdom found in the Bible—not just at key junctures, but in your everyday life?
3. Psalm 32:8 says, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go, I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.” What does God promise you concerning His will for your life?
4. Cathy talked about one of the greatest simplifying measures you and I can take is to adopt this core practice: *writing God’s Word on our hearts*. How do we write God’s word on our hearts?
5. This week we looked at how spending time in God’s word has the power to transform our lives as we allow God’s spirit to direct our steps. How do we allow God to direct our steps?
6. At every fork in the road, there is a better way to go as we ask God to direct our steps. Have you found this to be true or not?
7. This psalm implies it is possible to stay on the path of purity by living according to God’s Word. What does it mean to keep one’s way pure? What do you think is meant by this?
8. What is a favorite verse of scripture for you, and why? How has this verse encouraged you along the way?

Work it out

1. What are some barriers that keep you from spending time in God’s Word?
2. To know God’s truth is to know true freedom. To know true freedom, we must know God’s truth. (John 8:32) How have you found this to be true? Share an example from your own life.
3. If you’re feeling bold, complete this sentence aloud with your group: The aspect of my life that is most desperately in need of God’s leadership is....

Prayer

As you think back on this Simplify series, what is something that you would like prayer for? Share together as a group and pray for one another.

[Thank you to Willow Creek Community Church’s
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