



MISSION

LIVING SIMPLY

Objective for Learning: To learn how to slow down in a hectic world and understand the freedom that comes from not finding worth in material possessions and busy schedules but instead in Christ.

Objective for Living: To actively pursue the abundant life found only in a life lived for God while breaking free from the societal pressures to amass possessions, find value in busyness, and the American dream.

Objective for Reproducing: To be able to embody living simply in a way that reveals what this lifestyle looks like to others and inviting them into a similar way of living.

Scriptures for Living Simply:

- Luke 16:13
- Hebrews 13:5
- 1 Timothy 6:6-8
- Proverbs 23:4
- Matthew 6:21
- Matthew 6:33
- Matthew 19:24
- Proverbs 15:16
- Matthew 6:25-27
- Philippians 4:11-12
- 1 John 2:17
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11

How do each of these Scriptures help to **define** and **illuminate** what accountability is and why it is important?

Hearing (Discussion Points and Questions):

Overview:

In a world where people run themselves ragged pursuing the next best thing and finding their value in the amount of busyness in their lives, God's people should stand out by baulking these cultural trends and finding their worth in Christ alone. Too often, the pursuit of the American dream derails disciples by redirecting their attention and

affection towards the things of this world. The desire for bigger and better things can shift your heart from God to those possessions. Too much crammed in your schedule can also pull you away from what matters and redirect your heavenly focus even when your schedule is full of good or godly things. While Jesus does not call us to poverty or slothfulness, He does call us to a life defined by the pursuit of His Kingdom above all else, not the things or accolades of this world.

Living simply is the act of finding contentment in what you have been given by the Lord and removes the clutter and the noise that is trying to steal your sense of peace and intimacy with Christ. It is a respite from the undue and unwanted pressures to perform, to find value in your busyness, and to keep up with the newest trends and fads. When Christ is and remains your sole focus, the simplicity of this journey and pursuit brings freedom like nothing else can!

Questions for Learning and Living:

- Why do you think that when asked “How are you doing?” the most common answer is “I am busy”? What does that say about the priorities of our culture?
- What needs to happen in your life to embrace the idea of living simply with your time and with your possessions?
- How do our material possessions ensnare us? Why is it so easy for us to identify our worth in what we own and possess?
- How does someone who is wealthy embrace and live simply?
- How do you rejoice in what God has given you while at the same time not getting owned or enslaved by it?

Questions for Reproducing:

- What are some effective and non-judgmental ways to begin the conversation about living simply with someone who is not currently doing so?
- What verses would you use to give a Biblical vision for living simply? Why?
- What are some practical steps you could lead someone in when it comes to becoming less busy in their lives?
- What are some ways to help people become more passionate about Jesus than their stuff, jobs, and things of this world?

Doing (Implementation and Application):

- What is Jesus saying to you about this?
- How are you going to respond? Look at your personal discipleship assessment.
 - Give 1-3 concrete action steps that you are going to do this week to help you take the next step of learning, living, or reproducing in this area.
- Choose one of the Scriptures that really impacted you and commit to memorizing it this week.