

Simple Life

Devoting myself to God
Developing Christ-likeness
Doing ministry
Discipling others

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

By Louie Marsh & Brian Van Dyke

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MY SMALL GROUP ROSTER

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
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INTRODUCTION TO THE SIMPLE LIFE STUDY SERIES

Outline of each session

You are about to embark on a life-changing experience in your small group. Studying God's Word together with other believers always impacts our lives in ways we can't imagine.

As your group studies the Bible together, this study guide will help you strengthen and deepen the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life. The format of each session is as follows:

CONNECT – The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and His family. The questions in this section will help you get to know the members of your group so you'll begin to feel a sense of belonging and family.

GROW – This exciting section introduces a new component for many of you: video teaching. Each week you will watch Pastors Louie & Brian teaching video for the session. We ask you to follow along using the teaching outline in your study guide along with your Bibles. After the teaching video, discuss the questions that follow. The questions are designed to bring you to a deeper understanding of the Bible and to help you consider how the truths of the Bible can impact your life.

PRAY – A time to briefly share prayer requests and then pray about them as a group. If you've never prayed publicly before don't worry – no one will *force* you to pray, but we encourage to take a step of faith and try it – you will like it!



LESSON 1 – Staying Simple In A Complex World

"Today, let us ask God to help us be open, willing & ready to make whatever changes he challenges us to make, no matter how difficult or painful they may seem to be."
Louie Marsh, Simple Life Devotional

CONNECT 15 Minutes



If your group is new or you have any new members, take a few minutes to introduce yourselves. Briefly share how you heard about the church.

As you participate in the Simple Life spiritual journey, what is one thing you hope God will do in your life?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

The foundation of spiritual growth is your understanding of God's Word. Each week, bring your Bible and your study guide to the group meeting.

Watch the video now. Follow along in your Bibles and take notes on the provided outline.

THE SIMPLE LIFE, LESSON #1

1) The more complex and busy your life becomes, the more _____

Since we are surrounded by so many examples {of faith}, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up. We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith. He saw the joy ahead of him, so he endured death on the cross and ignored the disgrace it brought him. Then he received the highest position in heaven, the one next to the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 (GW)

2) Advantages & Disadvantages to Complexity & Simplicity

But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:40-42 (NIV)

Complexity

-
-
-

Simplicity

-
-
-
-

3) What the Busy Life and the Simple Life looks like:

- **Definition of Simple Life:** Living for an audience of _____
- **Definition of a Complex Life** is living for an audience of _____
- **Simple does NOT equal** _____

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man. Proverbs 6:6-11 (NIV)

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:37-39 (NIV)

- **Here's the truth – you can't put Jesus first if you won't _____**
- **Out of control business is _____**
- **In the final analysis it is _____ of Christ's Lordship of my life!**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) **Do you think your life is too complex? Why or why not?**
- 2) **Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of complexity and simplicity that Brian and Louie talked about. Do you agree or disagree with them, and why?**
- 3) **What does it mean on a practical level to "live for an audience of one?"**
- 4) **Do you agree with Louie's statement that "out of control busyness is your enemy?"**
 - **Do you find most people around you are out of control with how busy they are?**
- 5) **On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being not committed at all and 10 being totally committed; how committed am I to Christ?**

6) If you had to cut one thing out of your life to make more room for God, what would it be? How hard would it be to remove that from your life? What's stopping you from doing so?



PRAY