

Simplify: Deepening Our Friendships

Proverbs 27:17, Psalm 133, Hebrews 12:1-2, Matthew 11:28-30

1. Over the last decade, would you say that everyday life for most Americans has gotten ... *(circle one)*
 - A) Much more complicated *What has caused this?*
 - B) Somewhat more complicate
 - C) Stayed about the same
 - D) Less complicated.

2. If everyday life has become more complicated, what effect has this had on our inner life, our souls?

3. The reassuring promise of Jesus, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for you souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* Matthew 11:28-39
 What is Jesus teaching and promising here?

Date	Simplify Practice	Take Away	Next Steps
9-28	Facing Down Our Fears	Because it is the Lord God Almighty who is with me, all fears can be faced down.	Begin facing down a fear knowing that God is with me, God calls me to take steps He knows I can take, and I have the assurance that God will save me when I fail.
10-5	Deepening Our Friendships	Being surrounded in vibrant friendships with other Christ followers sustains me on the discipleship path as we live God’s love together.	Get into a life group of Christian friends and deepen the vital friendships I have already.

4. *Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.* Hebrews 12:1-2
 What is the simple truth that is taught here?

We are who we _____.
 How could we chart this?

Simplify: Practices To Unclutter Our Souls

Date	Simplify Practice	Take Away	Next Steps
9-14	Finding the Desert Place With God Without Completely Drying Up	It is often in the deserted places in my schedule that the presence and work of God is more vivid and God fills my emptiness.	Pick one to three life-giving streams to schedule more often in my daily life (Time with the Lord, Time with family & friends, Doing fulfilling work, Recreation, Exercise)
9-21	Being Content With Job and Money	Part of God’s restoration of his original blessing is for me to like my job and be content with my income.	Avoid the attitudinal bad moves of comparing my job and income to others, taking my eye off the generosity of God, and spending more than my income. Find my primary identity and ultimate worth in knowing Jesus.

5. *As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*
Proverbs 27:17