

SPIRITUAL FORMATION | PRAYER + MEDITATION | FASTING | **SIMPLICITY** | WORD | CONFESSION | SOLITUDE + SILENCE | WORSHIP + CELEBRATION | SABBATH | SERVICE

# RHYTHMS





# SIMPLICITY



A series of white, wavy, vertical lines of varying heights and frequencies, creating a rhythmic pattern along the left edge of the page.

# RHYTHMS

- 1 SPIRITUAL FORMATION
- 2 PRAYER + MEDITATION
- 3 FASTING
- 4 SIMPLICITY**
- 5 WORD
- 6 CONFESSION
- 7 SOLITUDE + SILENCE
- 8 WORSHIP + CELEBRATION
- 9 SABBATH
- 10 SERVICE





# Simplicity

Outline for Tonight



What's his deal (actually)?

His deal is our deal.

How can we deal?



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## **MARK 10:17-22** NIV

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>18</sup> “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” <sup>20</sup> “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup> At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.





### **MARK 10:19** NIV

“You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

## **10 Commandments**

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall make no idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Keep the Sabbath day holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.



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**MATTHEW 13:45-46** NIV

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”





**WHAT does God  
want FOR me?**

God **delights in blessing** his people. **Psalms 35:27**

Christ came that we might have life... “**and have it more *abundantly*.**”  
**John 10:10**

Jesus invites us to be “**be *filled*”** with **HIS JOY** so that **OUR JOY** may  
**overflow.** **John 15:11**

God wants to help us become “***more than conquerors.***” **Romans 8:37**

God wants to do ***exceedingly, abundantly, beyond*** all that we can  
ask or think. **Ephesians 3:20**







# SIMPLICITY







## **1 TIMOTHY 6:6-7** NIV

But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.





### **MATTHEW 6:19-21** NIV

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”





“That Jesus did not command all his followers to sell all their possessions gives comfort only to the kind of people to whom he would issue that command.”

- Robert Gundry





“Jesus speaks to the question of economics more than any other single social issue. If, in a comparatively simple society, our Lord lays such strong emphasis upon the spiritual dangers of wealth, how much more should we who live in a highly affluent culture take seriously the economic question.”

- **Richard Foster**, *Celebration of Discipline*





“These are the things which make it difficult to die.”

- Dr. Samuel Johnson





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### **MARK 10:23-27** NIV

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”





### **MARK 10:13-16** NIV

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup> And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.



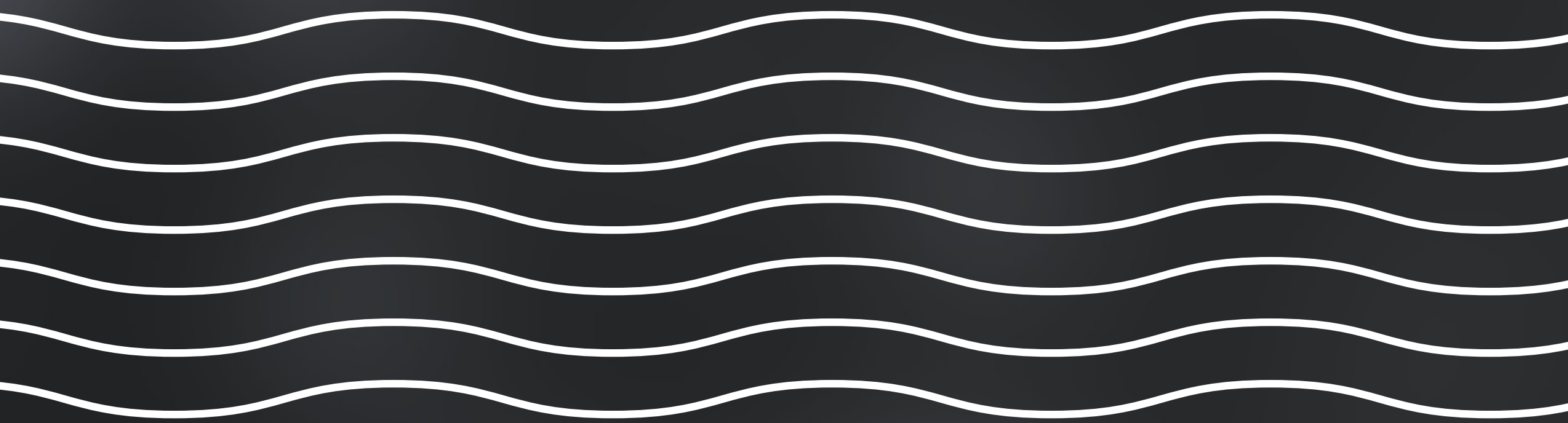


### **MATTHEW 6:30-33** NIV

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.







**Seek first His kingdom.**





### **MATTHEW 13:3b-9** NIV

“...A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear.”





## **MATTHEW 13:18-23** NIV

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”





**MARK 10:28-31** NIV

Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”  
<sup>29</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”





“...the brevity of life...” is “the defining problem of human existence: we’ve been granted the mental capacities to make almost infinitely ambitious plans, yet practically no time at all to put them into action.”

- **Oliver Burkeman**, *Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals*





“He is no fool to give what he cannot keep  
to gain that which he cannot lose.”

- Jim Elliot





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# Simplicity

Practice this Week

1. Ask God to assess your attachment to possessions. // **Mark 10:17-31**
2. Notice anxieties connected with lack and excess. // **Matthew 6:19-34**
3. Notice the danger of comparisons and satisfaction in God. // **Psalms 73**
4. Downsize an area of excess to maximize joy in God. // **Psalms 16**
5. Display Jesus through a generous act. // **2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:6-15**

