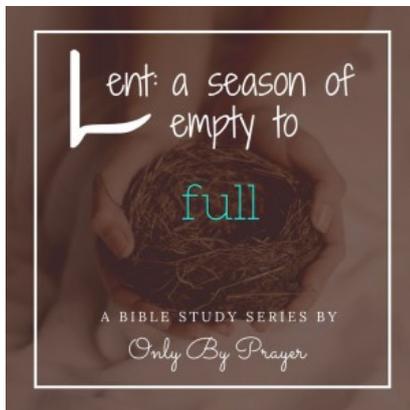


# Lent: a season of empty to full, simplicity



*“For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.” 2 Corinthians 1:12*

## I like simple.

**Simple** pleasures, simple foods, simple days. A flower in an unexpected place. A hearty bowl of stew on a cold wintry day, meandering down a country road or an evening with the family gathered in the living room sharing laughs and love ... all of these things bring a smile to my face and peace to my soul.

**Ironically simplicity requires difficult choices, an iron will, and nerves of steel.** The world, your work, and even your own heart will try to sneak in and wreak havoc with a simple life.

Jesus led a **simple** life. He had one goal: to do His Father's will. How **simple** is that? Without a smart phone or iPad (my two mainstays), He managed to turn the world upside down. In order to live a **simple** life, we must simplify our priorities.

## Simple Life Focus:

**One command:** Love the Lord with all your heart

**One commission:** Tell the world

**One goal:** Bring Him Glory

Empty your heart. Fill up with God.

It's **simple**.

To learn more about the **simple** life, simply scroll through the Sway. Have a blessed Lent.

Here is our TalkShoe chat on Simplicity:

Have a simply blessed Lent.

*Mary Kane*

*Jane*

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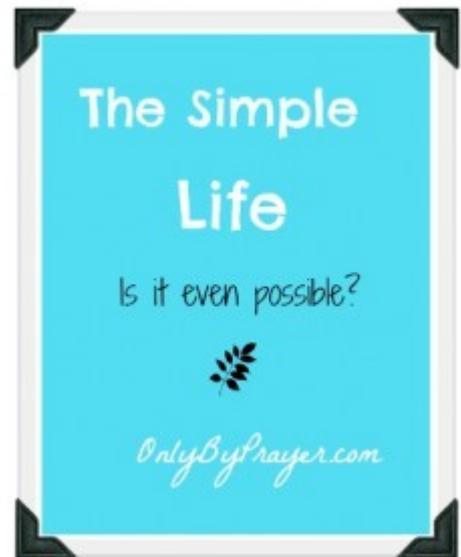
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## What Is the Simple Life?

As Mary and I are preparing to kick off our first ever online Bible study offered by Only By Prayer called [The Simple Life](#), I've naturally been doing some reflection on what I think the **simple life** looks like. I've come to the conclusion that I definitely know what the simple life *doesn't* look like based on past and current experience. I can tell you that it doesn't look like any of the following things, all of which I've done

at some point in my life.



- It doesn't look like working until 9:30 p.m. every weeknight grading students' English papers.
- It doesn't look like staying up until 10:30 p.m. or 11 p.m. every night writing an e-book.
- It doesn't look like doing household chores all day Sunday to try and prepare for the next week.
- It doesn't look like skipping my **devotion time** repeatedly because I'm too tired to get up in the morning.
- It doesn't look like watching the whole summer pass by with the realization that I've only sat down twice in the evening on my deck to relax and read a book.
- It doesn't look like my children and I only seeing my husband every other weekend for the duration of six months while he works across the country.
- It doesn't look like wading through a house filled with too much junk!

I'm pretty good at knowing what the **simple life** isn't; it's what it *is* that I need to figure out.

Now, I know that life has its seasons, and some seasons just have to be endured, **but when you realize it's gone from a life season to a life pattern, then it's time for a life change!**

So far, in my early prestudy ruminations, I'm beginning to see that *simply* doesn't necessarily mean easily. Here is what I think I want the simple life to look like: To me, the simple life means 1) sitting at the feet of Jesus 2) undergirding everything with prayer 3) being intentional with my time and resources, and 4) pursuing and listening for God's next thing for me.

Now I just need to learn how to do all that! How about you? What do you think the simple life looks like for you?

Would you like to join us in exploring **The Simple Life** ? There's still time for you to [sign up](#).

Jane

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## Lent Day 21, Early Will I Seek You



Welcome to Day 21 of our **Lenten Devotional**. This week we are pursuing a life of **simplicity**. Today we look at the importance of spending time with God. Just click on the link below to

join our study. Feel free to leave any comments or ideas. We'd love to hear what you've been learning from the series.

## [Lent Day 21, Early Will I Seek You](#)

(photo courtesy of Wil VanOsdol)

*Jane*

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## Lent Day 20, Simplicity, a Not-So-Simple Choice



Welcome to Day 20 of our Lent Devotions. This week, we are tackling the topic of **simplicity**, which is not always a simple thing to do! Join us as we explore what a lifestyle of simplicity looks like. To read today's **devotion**, just click on the link below.

[Lent Day 20, Simplicity, a Not-So-Simple](#)

## Choice

*Jane*

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