



## SERMON DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

*Simplicity | Keith Simon | November 9, 2025*

### Experiments Review

- How did it go? What was challenging?
- What did you learn? About yourself and about God?
- What would you like to incorporate into your life going forward?

### Sermon Discussion

1. Have you ever experienced getting what you thought you wanted, and then found out it wasn't what you needed and didn't make you as happy as you'd hoped? Share what that was like.

### Read Hebrews 13:5

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

2. We don't love money itself; we love what money does for us. What do you love most about money? What do you rely on it to do for you?
3. Keith shared lots of examples illustrating the ways we accumulate stuff.
  - The average American home contains 300,000 items.
  - 10% of Americans rent offsite storage.
  - 25% of people with two-car garages don't have room to park inside of them.
  - The average 10-year-old has 238 toys but plays with just 12 daily.
  - The home organization industry does \$12 billion in annual sales.



How do you identify with some of these statistics? What examples do you see of this tendency to accumulate more and more stuff in your own life?

### Read Luke 12:15

*Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."*

### Read Matthew 13:3-9, 22

*Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "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."*

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*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.*

### Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10

*Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

4. How is love of money and the accumulation of stuff distracting you from God, choking off your spiritual life, and tempting you to wander away from the faith?
5. Author G.K. Chesterton wrote, "There are two ways to get enough. One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less."

Consider ways you look to your possessions to make you happy and the habits you have in place to accumulate more and more stuff. What is one change you can make this week to break the buying cycle to practice being more content with what you have?



## Sharing and Prayer

Read Hebrews 13:5 together. Then, confess the ways you are struggling to be content with what you have.

### Hebrews 13:5

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

Pray for the group after everyone shares. Thank God that we can be content with what we have because we have him.

## What to practice for next time...

Week of Nov. 16    Worship

Week of Nov. 23    Community

To access a digital copy of the experiments, use this QR code.

