

Thrive



Week One: Simplicity

Overview

In a culture surrounded by the impact of COVID-19, it's time for God's church to thrive. No matter how chaotic this world may seem, God has given us everything we need to thrive in our lives, our rhythms, with our resources, and in our relationships. So many of us will view this season that we're in as just a time of survival. But what if God is calling his church to thrive in the midst of chaos? What if God is calling you to become even more alive in him during this time? What if God is inviting his people to a deeper, more meaningful faith in him? We believe he is, and we're excited discuss this topic over the next few weeks.

This week - we began phase two of our Thrive series. Over the next few weeks, we'll be looking at spiritual disciplines, or spiritual practices that we can live out every day. These practices help us further our faith in God, grow closer to him, and infuse our faith with our lives every day. We know that our faith can't be confined to a day of the week, or a time slot, a building, or a program. We have to live our faith in Jesus every single day. This week – George introduced us to the practice of simplicity. Simplicity creates margin in our lives to experience the presence of God. Though it is difficult for us to practice, particularly in our fast-paced culture, it can make a huge difference in our lives.

As you begin, pray for God to help you simplify your life.

Reading and Discussion

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-11. Upon first reading, what stands out to you from this passage?
2. Do you struggle to live simply? Where in your life do you see this struggle play out?
3. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. George stated that one measure of spiritual discipline is controlling our desires. In a culture that preaches the need for more, how easily does contentment come for you? Do you find yourself always wanting more?
4. The key to simplicity is simply being grateful and content with what God has given you. Over the last few minutes of this session, spend some time naming what you are grateful for in your life, if you feel comfortable. Close the session by praying prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving to God for his blessings. Also also for a spirit of contentment and simplicity in your lives.