

# Gathering

## SIMPLICITY

---

**A**s life seems to return during the springtime, we notice the bright green of the grass and trees. It is during this time, that we feel the need to clean. Spring cleaning is one of my favorite times of year. There is no party or celebration but getting rid of bulky winter items for more compact, light-weight items is exciting! (*Or is it just me?*)

But simplicity is much more than living a materially-simple life. Simplicity is openness, un-self-consciousness, naturalness. Where simplicity abounds, words can be taken at face value. Simplicity is freeing. Do you need to do a little “spring cleaning” in the areas of your view of yourself, your things, or your relationships?

*“Explore me, O God, and know the real me. Dig deeply and discover who I am. Put me to the test and watch how I handle the strain. Examine me to see if there is an evil bone in me, and guide me down Your path forever.”*  
Psalm 139:23-24 (Voice)

In sharing scripture...

- Do you need to hide who you are from friends, family or strangers? In what specific ways do you hide?
- How do you feel about God knowing the real you?
- Being tested by God can be painful. How will you handle the strain?
- How can you begin to lead a more simple life?

After the sharing, you may wish to take time to discuss how, as a group, accountability can be held to encourage a deeper exploration of scripture or even offer a fun challenge of memorizing a new verse per week.

Be sure to hand out the Monthly Scripture Card and Take Home Sheet.

*Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.*

# Gathering

SIMPLICITY

Do you need to **hide** who you are from friends, family or **strangers**?  
In what specific ways do you **hide**?

# Gathering

SIMPLICITY

How do you feel about **God** knowing the real **you**?

# Gathering

SIMPLICITY

Being tested by **God** can be **painful**. How will you handle the **strain**?

# Gathering

SIMPLICITY

How can you begin to lead a more **Simple** life?



*"Explore me, O God, and know the  
real me. Dig deeply and discover who I  
am. Put me to the test and watch how  
I handle the strain. Examine me to  
see if there is an evil bone in me, and  
guide me down Your path forever."*

*Psalms 139:23-24*

*"Explore me, O God, and know the  
real me. Dig deeply and discover who I  
am. Put me to the test and watch how  
I handle the strain. Examine me to  
see if there is an evil bone in me, and  
guide me down Your path forever."*

*Psalms 139:23-24*

*"Explore me, O God, and know the  
real me. Dig deeply and discover who I  
am. Put me to the test and watch how  
I handle the strain. Examine me to  
see if there is an evil bone in me, and  
guide me down Your path forever."*

*Psalms 139:23-24*

*"Explore me, O God, and know the  
real me. Dig deeply and discover who I  
am. Put me to the test and watch how  
I handle the strain. Examine me to  
see if there is an evil bone in me, and  
guide me down Your path forever."*

*Psalms 139:23-24*

*"Explore me, O God, and know the  
real me. Dig deeply and discover who I  
am. Put me to the test and watch how  
I handle the strain. Examine me to  
see if there is an evil bone in me, and  
guide me down Your path forever."*

*Psalms 139:23-24*

*"Explore me, O God, and know the  
real me. Dig deeply and discover who I  
am. Put me to the test and watch how  
I handle the strain. Examine me to  
see if there is an evil bone in me, and  
guide me down Your path forever."*

*Psalms 139:23-24*

**SIMPLICITY** can bring freedom... ready to do some “spring cleaning”? Here are some questions to ponder as we try to “gather simplicity” in our not-so-simple lives:

- Am I pretending to be an expert where I am only an amateur: • Do I use rhetoric as a curtain to conceal my true intentions: • Do I give the impression of being more godly (*or ungodly... which-ever will give more status in the group*) than I truly am? • Am I living contentedly within my income? • Am I a compulsive buyer? • Do I try to impress people with gadgets? • In recounting events, do I shift the story to make myself appear in a more favorable light? • Must I always make excuses for my behavior? • Do I aim at excellence in my work without regard for what people may say or think? • Can I allow an unfavorable comment about myself to stand, without any need to straighten out the matter? • Can I accept compliments freely without self-conscious modesty?

Did you discover anything new about yourself? Simple living and thinking is a life-style change and will take some time to implement change. But begin the process of simplifying your life so that God will be glorified in it.

**SIMPLICITY** can bring freedom... ready to do some “spring cleaning”? Here are some questions to ponder as we try to “gather simplicity” in our not-so-simple lives:

- Am I pretending to be an expert where I am only an amateur: • Do I use rhetoric as a curtain to conceal my true intentions: • Do I give the impression of being more godly (*or ungodly... which-ever will give more status in the group*) than I truly am? • Am I living contentedly within my income? • Am I a compulsive buyer? • Do I try to impress people with gadgets? • In recounting events, do I shift the story to make myself appear in a more favorable light? • Must I always make excuses for my behavior? • Do I aim at excellence in my work without regard for what people may say or think? • Can I allow an unfavorable comment about myself to stand, without any need to straighten out the matter? • Can I accept compliments freely without self-conscious modesty?

Did you discover anything new about yourself? Simple living and thinking is a life-style change and will take some time to implement change. But begin the process of simplifying your life so that God will be glorified in it.