

GodSense

Lesson #1 *(Principles 1-5)*

- I. Invitation to simplicity Matthew 11:28-29
 - A. Jesus' life I John 2:5-6
 - B. Jesus' teachings Matthew 18:2-4

- II. Making the simple commitment
 - A. Take time Psalm 1
 - i. With God
 - ii. With ourselves
 - iii. With others
 - B. Be obedient Joseph
 - i. Knowing God's will
 - ii. Doing God's will
 - iii. Giving up control

This study is based upon the book entitled *The GodSense Devotional* by Beverly Van Kampen. If you have any questions about this material or if you would like to know more about *GodSense*, please visit the author's website at www.beverlyvankampen.com.

III. Living the simple life

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| A. | Freedom | Psalm 119:45 | |
| | i. | Breaks enslavement | James 1:25 |
| | ii. | Delivers from Satan | John 8:32-36 |
| B. | Attitude | Luke 1:46-55 | |
| | i. | Thoughts | Ephesians 4:22-24 |
| | ii. | Humility | Proverbs 11:2
Philippians 2:5 |
| | iii. | Trust | John 4:43-54 |

IV. Rewards of commitment to God

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| A. | Life and prosperity | Deuteronomy 5:33 |
| B. | Recognition | Matthew 5:19 |
| C. | Belonging | Matthew 12:50 |
| D. | Love | John 14:21 |
| E. | Answered prayers | I John 3:21-22 |
| F. | Wisdom and understanding | Psalm 111:10 |

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ASSIGNMENT

Lesson 1

Bible study

Read Matthew 13:1-23, The Parable of the Sower and the Seed. Thinking carefully about what you have read, answer the following questions:

- (1) What are the four kind of soil that the seed fell on?
- (2) What happened to the seed in each of the four kinds of soil?
- (3) What do you think Jesus was telling His disciples in verses 11-17? How does that message relate to us today?
- (4) In the interpretation that Jesus gives to His disciples, what happened to the seed that was sown along the path? What did that soil lack?
- (5) What caused the seed in rocky places to fail?
- (6) What two things caused the choking of the seed in thorny places?
- (7) What kind of soil produced a good crop?
- (8) How does this parable help us to understand that just reading the Bible and going to church are not enough to make us spiritually strong?

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- (9) What can you do to create a life in which the message of God can produce spiritual fruit?
- (10) This parable is one of many agricultural illustrations used in the Bible. What does the agricultural model teach us about the time requirement for spiritual growth?

Journaling

Think about your daily schedule. Then allow some thoughts to flow freely onto paper about what you might be able to do to simplify your life so that you can give more time to your relationship with God and less time to the temporal things of earth. What can you change immediately? What changes can you institute over a period of time? How can you slow down the pace of your life so that the ears of your heart can be listening to God as you go through your day?

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer talking to God about the deepest desires of your heart. If those desires center around knowing Him and being obedient to His direction, tell Him that. If you have just a little desire to know and love God more, ask Him to increase your desire as you submit to Him. Ask Him if He has any message for you as you sit quietly in His presence.

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