

## Weekly Study

### Simplicity in a Complex World | Ryan Wekenman | August 21, 2022

*\*A note to leaders: there have been two additional questions added to the “grow” and “move” portions of the Weekly entitled ‘Dive Deeper’. This is designed for you to help guide your group into deeper relationship with Jesus and each other, and take an additional step for owning their relationship with Jesus throughout their week.*

## S T A R T

Go around and check in with your group with the following questions:

- What is the last book you read? Do you recommend it?
- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday’s sermon?
- What did that thing teach you about God? About yourself?

## S H A R E

On Sunday Ryan led week three of our “Right Side Up” series with a message about living simply in a complex world. He reminded us that when life gets complicated we get smart, and when we get smart we begin to overcomplicate things. Jesus presents an invitation to us to work through the complications of life and rest in the simplicity waiting for us on the other side.

## G R O W

### **Read Luke 4:16-17.**

In this passage we find that Jesus shares really good news with the listeners in the synagogue. He proclaims that he is the one who is restoring sight to the blind, freeing prisoners from their captivity and bestowing the Lord’s favor on His people. Everywhere Jesus went, He was like a walking wedding celebration of heaven meeting earth. Everywhere He went He was flipping things right side up, all the way to Him laying down His life, taking on all of the complexity and sin of an upside down world so that we could experience freedom and simplicity on the other side of his obedience.

Because of what Jesus did, we are already made perfect (Hebrews 10:14), and now we get to accept His invitation to be in the process of being made more like Jesus every day. If He were to take on flesh once again and show up in your midst, He would be less concerned about what you were doing and more concerned about the health of your relationship with Him and underneath, the health of your soul. Loving God and loving each other as we love ourselves is

what all of the laws and prophets hang on (Matthew 22:35-40), and because of that truth, we don't have to overcomplicate following him anymore.

- What is one way that you have overcomplicated following Jesus?
- In what ways do you struggle to believe that Jesus is turning things right side up in your own life? How can your group rally around you to speak truth over that situation or belief?
- *Dive Deeper:* Each morning this week, sit quietly and spend 5 dedicated minutes asking the Holy Spirit to clear and renew your mind and show you the truth about how simple life with Him really can be — pay attention to how He answers that prayer throughout the next week!

## M O V E

### **Read Matthew 11:28-30.**

The original context of this passage is helpful for understanding how relieving this passage truly is. In Jesus' first century world, the religious scholars regularly emphasized a man-centered faith and repentance: "What do I have to do to be in right standing with God?" The people were tired and burned out on religion. Jesus was also a religious scholar in his own right — but not in the way that we traditionally think of that term. Jesus was a rabbi, and rabbis had something called a 'yoke'. You likely think of this passage and the concept of a yoke as being something that oxen carry to balance out their workload, and that makes sense because we cannot work our way to right standing with God on our own — but the original context is even better. When Jesus refers to a 'yoke' in this passage, what He's talking about is his teachings. A rabbi's yoke is what he taught his disciples.

When Jesus says "take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls", He is trying to show us that a Jesus-centered faith and repentance — His way of doing things — brings simplicity. His yoke is easy and His burden is light, meaning that as we keep company with Him we are going to learn how to live freely and lightly.

- What is one thing you've thought you've known about following Jesus that has caused more burden than relief? Have your group members help you see that thing rightly, and dive into what He actually has to say about that thing that is weighing you down.
- What is one practical step you can take this week to simplify your life?

- *Dive Deeper:* Jump down to the “pray” section and split up into groups of no more than three to pray together.

## P R A Y

Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into separate groups to share more freely.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to stir a desire to not forget your first love, Jesus, this week.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal places where you have overcomplicated following Jesus, and that He would give you encouragement and excitement as you partner with Him to find places where He wants to bring freedom and simplicity to your life.