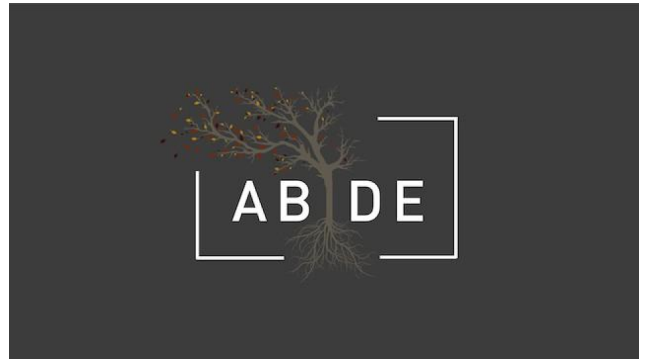


## Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for January 15, 2023:

*Abide: Simplicity*



**For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with  
CGS Community or family**

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

- Name one thing you own that is older than 10 years. What is the story of how you obtained it?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

*45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”*

*When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. 54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. 55 “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” 57 And they took offense at him.*

*But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.” 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

***Matt. 13:44-46, 53-58***

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.

- *“Everything hinges upon maintaining the ‘first’ thing as first. Nothing must come before the kingdom of God, including the desire for a simple life-style” (Celebration of Discipline, p. 86).*

- Read Matthew 6:33. Finding the freedom of simplicity begins and ends with seeking first the kingdom of God. When things get complex, how can you get back to this simple verse?

- Freedom from anxiety is characterized by three inner attitudes:

- If what I have I receive as a gift from God, and

- If what I have is to be cared for by God, and

- If what I have is available to others, then I possess the inward reality of simplicity.

- How would seeking the kingdom of God above all else produce the inward reality of simplicity?

- What are some barriers to seeking the kingdom above all else?

- Name some of your “many selves” that clamor for attention and make life more complicated. What ways have you explored for attempting to put them under the control of the divine arbitrator?

- o What is the greatest danger in setting forth an outward expression of Christian simplicity? Why must we take the risk?

### **10 Controlling Principles for the Outward Expression of Simplicity (Richard J. Foster, Celebration of Discipline)**

1. Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
2. Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
3. Develop a habit of giving things away.
4. Refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry.
5. Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
6. Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation.
7. Look with a healthy skepticism at all “buy now, pay later” schemes.
8. Obey Jesus’ instructions about plain, honest speech. (Matt. 5:37)
9. Reject anything that breeds the oppression of others.
10. Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the kingdom of God.

- **SERVE** *others*

This month our second offering is going to be given to Pathway to Hope, a pregnancy care center in Hamilton, OH. To find out more information and make a donation, go to <https://www.royalredeemer.org/january-second-offering-pathway-to-hope/>

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing.**