



Thoughts for 2020: Keep it Simple

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. What a Time to Be Alive
- B. Volatile time in Our Nation and globally

II. LIFEBOATS

- A. Go Deeper with Fewer
- B. Messier
 - 1. Cemeteries are orderly, structured, with few messes or surprises...but there's no life there
 - 2. Nurseries are messy but full of life
- C. **Squad:** we are to be a smaller unit of 6-12 Believers consistently gathered together.
- D. **Prayer for Present Leaders:**
 - 1. When Spirit of God moves people volunteer freely; pray for new interns to be raised up.

III. UP: Seeking God

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5

- A. **Kernel Thought:** Our connection with YHWH is our first and primary assignment. If we love God well, we will be able to love others much more effectively.

B. Other Helps

- 1. *This Takes Faith* to set it as a priority
- 2. *There's Bound to Come Some Trouble*: God wants to use our trouble for good. We live in a broken world with broken people. What will you do with your trouble?
- 3. Prayer (& Fasting): In this season of increasing the times that we are meeting in the home, it is more important than ever to be asking God for His help, wisdom, protection, and blessing.
- 4. *Abiding in Yeshua's Love*: We have a greater ability to love God more deeply if we have a greater revelation of His love for us

Yeshua: "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." John 15:9

Yeshua: "And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." John 17:26

5. *This Takes Time*

To break through this double barrier—of distractions from without and self consciousness within—might take me anything from 5 minutes to half an hour. But once I had succeeded in pressing through the barrier, it was as though a fountain opened up inside me. Prayer began to flow forth from some source within me, deeper than my conscious mind. Lydia Prince in *Appointment in Jerusalem* pg. 41.

6. *God Promises to Reward Us*

But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:7

C. Individually

- 1. Set Apart Times: These are primary times where with schedule larger chunks of time to spend with God.
- 2. On the Run: These are supplemental 10-20 second connecting prayers with Yeshua all throughout the day.

- D. **With Others:** There are multiple times throughout the week we are able to pray with others. There are also opportunities with the Upper Room prayer times to connect with God together with others.

- 1. In the Lifeboats, we have opportunity to pray and seek God together.

E. Goals

- 1. *Assess*: How would you presently assess your set-apart times with God? _____ (1-10)

2. Schedule: When are your consistent, individual, daily times with God? You will not pray more than you schedule. What will you do during those times?

IV. IN: Connecting With Other Believers

17He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep. John 21:17

34A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

22 The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. John 17:22-23

A. Kernel Thought: we don't go to church or bring people to church, we are the church

B. Other Helps

1. Loving others is inconvenient and takes time and energy
2. We are our brother's keeper
3. We will give an account of how we used our talents to serve others.

C. Individually

1. Family/friends

D. With Others

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. Galatians 6:10

1. Family/friends

"What you are at home is what you are for real" Tim Conway

2. Lifeboat Members

E. Goals

1. How am I presently doing at practically expressing my love to my family/friends? ____ (1-10)
2. What one thing can I do within the next week to better express love to my believing family/friends?
3. How am I presently doing at practically expressing my love to those Believers in my Lifeboat (or those closest to me)? ____ (1-10)
4. What one thing can I do within the next week to better express love to those Believers closest to me?

V. OUT: Reaching Out to Others

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10

A. Kernel Thought: we are called to actively seek and engage with those who are not connected to God

B. Other Helps

1. Love Our Neighbor as Ourselves: We won't be able to love our neighbor well unless we are focusing on and growing in our ability to love God. Loving our neighbor is the second commandment.
2. Our Neighbor Includes Our Enemy (Adversary)

²⁷"But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you....³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:27-28, 35-36

C. Individually:

1. Who is in Your Sphere? Who are the unchurched people around you?

- a. Personal Life:
- b. Family/friends
- c. Neighbors/Coworkers
- d. Lifeboat: reach out to people as a group

2. How Can We Make a Difference?

D. With Others: As small God squads we can partner with others to reach out to those around us.

E. Goals: Identify, pray, & obey