

# Organized Simplicity Discussion Questions

A guide for book clubs, personal journaling, and general reflection

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**For more information:**

[OrganizedSimplicity.net](http://OrganizedSimplicity.net) — the book's official website

[SimpleMom.net](http://SimpleMom.net) — Tsh's blog

<http://amzn.to/cSSeJa> — the book on Amazon



1. We all have a background story. How does yours affect your relationship with “stuff”?
2. Discuss your thoughts on the average size of the modern day house. What does it say about our culture?
3. Why do you think “simple living” is a popular buzzword?
4. What images come to your mind about the stereotype surrounding the “simple living” lifestyle?
5. Discuss the book's definition of “simple living.” Do you think it's accurate?
6. Which of the four extra benefits to simplifying and decluttering most resonate with you (pages 29-35)? Can you think of more?
7. Discuss the challenges of deciphering the important things versus the urgent things. Why are the urgent things such tyrants?
8. Did you create a family purpose statement? Discuss that process. Was it easy? Challenging? Was your spouse on board?
9. Which of the 20 questions for creating your purpose statement were your favorites?
10. Share your family's purpose statement, if you're so inclined.
11. Have you applied your purpose statement to make some goals or boundaries in your life?
12. Discuss the role television has in your family's life. What about other screens?
13. How much unstructured time do you allow for your kids? How different is it from your childhood play time?
14. Do you think it's impossible to have a one-income family in today's world?
15. What are some things you wish you had more time to do?

16. Did you list out your monthly activities from the exercise on page 57? Did anything surprise you about how much time you spend doing certain activities?
17. Name one habit you want to change about how your family spends time.
18. Does your family's calendar line up with your purpose statement? Why or why not?
19. What's the hardest part about deciding what commitments are healthy for your family, and which you need to decline?
20. Do you regularly meet with your spouse to discuss your family's upcoming week?
21. Discuss the role debt plays in living more simply.
22. How would you define "budget"? Why are we so reticent to use one?
23. What are you saving for?
24. Do you have a home management notebook?
25. Do you plan out each day, or do you go with the flow? What's more helpful for you?
26. What are some of your favorite little things in life?
27. How do you like to use your hands? What skill or craft would you like to learn?
28. How do small pleasures connect with a simple home?
29. Discuss the concept of "opportunity cost" for making decisions in your family life.
30. What surprised you when you toured your room and named each area's purpose?
31. How are you making the most of what you've got, house-wise?
32. Discuss the William Morris quote from page 120. How helpful is it when you're decluttering your home?
33. Did you have a yard sale? What was that process like?
34. Do you associate memories with your things? Discuss what role it plays in your decluttering process.
35. Were you emotional about parting with anything?
36. What is the purpose of your living room? How is it a haven for each family member?
37. What is the purpose of your kitchen? Does it serve a purpose besides cooking?
38. What are your favorite cooking tools? What would you add (or take away) to the list of essentials on pages 144-146?

39. Name some of the most over-hyped or useless kitchen gadgets available today.
39. How does the organization of your kitchen affect how you feed your family?
40. Why do you think the average consumer buys so many beauty and body products?
41. Are your children clutterbugs or hoarders? How did they feel about the decluttering process?
42. Discuss the room situation with your kids. How does it affect their relationship with each other?
43. Do you enjoy thrift store shopping? Why or why not? Discuss some of the better thrift stores in your area.
44. What are some of your family's favorite toys?
45. Discuss the role books play in your children's lives.
46. What is the purpose of your master bedroom? Does it serve dual purposes?
47. Tim Gunn's list of the ten essential items for women (page 190) -- discuss. Agree or disagree?
48. What about the list of essentials for men (page 192)?
49. Do you and your spouse share a similar decorating taste?
50. What do you think about your home's front entry? Is it welcoming?
51. Do you take your shoes off when you come inside your home?
52. Discuss how simple living is a journey and not a destination.
53. Relationships are more important than things -- what does this look like in your life?
54. Did you try any of the homemade recipes?
55. Do you garden? Shop at your local farmer's market? Both?
56. Do you clip coupons?
57. Do you line dry your laundry? Do you have restrictions on this where you live?
58. Do you have cell phones exclusively? What are the benefits to keeping a landline?
59. Do you have cable television? What are some alternatives?
60. Diapers -- cloth or disposable? Or both?
61. Do you think it's possible to be a one-car family where you live?
62. What are your thoughts about bulk grocery warehouses?
63. How does your family like to take vacations? Have any plans in the next year?