



Disclaimer: These are rough notes we use to prep for the show. Please excuse typos, etc.

Simple Life Together Episode 77: Simple Answers to Listener Questions

Hi and welcome back to Simple Life Together

A podcast dedicated to leading a simpler life in the modern world

I'm Dan Hayes.

And I'm Vanessa Hayes.

Well, welcome back to the show! On the last episode we talked about Simplifying to Sell Your Home, or To Just Get A Fresh Start

On today's show, we're going to give you a little update on

our simplicity journey, and answer some questions you asked over on the Simple Life Together Facebook page and the Edit & Forget It Facebook page.

We're right in the thick of the holiday season, and many of your questions had to do with simplifying for the holidays and the coming New Year. So we'll be sure to hit some tips on that, but hopefully in a way where you can apply them any time, not just during the holidays.

As for us, we're still in "transition" for about another 6 months, so we're definitely learning some new simple living lessons, and we'll give you an update on that as well toward the end of the show. So for those of you who just listen in for the tips can get them, and then you can tune out if you want so you don't have to hear about our trials and tribulations.

But I did want to hit something up front because it's something you may be interested in down the road. So on the last episode we told you we were putting the finishing

touches on the content of Vanessa's S.I.M.P.L.E.

Organizing System course, and then we still had a bunch of launch videos to shoot. That process went well, the course material turned out great and once again validated the process. We had a small launch...just folks on the SLT email list and they were able to invite a friend if they wanted.

Well the launch went well, and Vanessa held the course for a small group, and now we're really trying to simplify it even more, boiling it down to just the essence of the process, and deciding exactly where we want the course to live. We're just not happy with any platforms we've tried. They're too expensive and seem clunky. So we're considering just making the course an "in your Inbox" course, so people don't have to log into an outside website, remember another log in, hope the site isn't slow, etc. People are comfortable in their Inbox. They go there every day. And it would lower the cost of the course dramatically. So I'm working hard on that, to bring Vanessa's amazing system to more people in a simpler

way.

If you want to be on the loop with Vanessa's course, the S.I.M.P.L.E. Organizing System, you can sign up for updates at GetOrganizedSOS.com

Topic:

OK, so let's get to your questions...and we're just gonna wing this...

SIMPLIFYING THE HOLIDAYS

- Tips on storing your Christmas decorations and paraphernalia...for next year.
- How about ways to simplify the gift-giving madness that overtakes us at this time of year, and the idea of giving experiences instead of things?
- How to keep the holidays simple
- How to be present...NOT perfect...for the holidays.
- How to simplify gift giving and The Christmas meal? Any tips on simplifying cleanup after the meal?

- Creative non-material gift giving ideas!
- Simplifying Christmas preparation. How to not get overwhelmed with decorations while still being able to decorate
- Favorite holiday traditions
- What to tell people when they want a Christmas wish list
- Our list of favorite things segment (such as favorite podcasts, audio books, blogs, simple living role models you find inspiring, iPhone apps)
- Any suggestions on how to show appreciation to teachers or other people you'd normally give a Christmas gift to.

NEW YEARS, GOALS, RESOLUTIONS

- As a new year begins, I tend to think about goals more than resolutions.
- New Year's resolutions or how to plan next year.

- Tips on motivation to achieve your goals and eliminating overwhelm.
- How to stop procrastinating.
- How to deal with the entitlement epidemic

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

OTHER TOPICS

- Simplicity when no-one's watching (or listening)

UPDATE

- Expectations v. Reality in the transition you've made.
- Updates on the move, status of the house build, settling in to the new community
- How is Sunshine and your son, how is the lovable ex-wife dealing with y'all leaving.
- How's the teardrop camper, favorite trips this year, planned trips for next year.

- What are your new business ventures, challenges for moving Vanessa's organizing business, when are you getting your nationally syndicated talk show (HGTV and/or Oprah should be calling you).
- Any changes/updates to your exercising routines or smoothie making/juicing? Thank you for considering some of these items and making a new podcast!

Summary:

Question: So, we answered your questions...how about you answer one for us? What are your plans for the New Year? How do you plan on incorporating more simplicity into your life? We'd love to know! Leave us a comment at SimpleLifeTogether.com/077, on the Simple Life Together Facebook page, or where you find us most, on the Edit & Forget It Facebook page.

Feedback:

iTunes:

So glad I found this podcast ★★★★★

by Wayway 445 – Dec 18, 2015

I found this podcast a little late, and had some catching up to do. I love everything that these two stand for, and it's given me so much encouragement to start cleaning up my own life and simplify down.

Was this review helpful? Yes | No | Report a Concern

Love this show! ★★★★★

by Wayway 445 – Oct 31, 2015

This podcast has been truly helpful in organizing my priorities and simplifying my life.

1 out of 1 listeners found this review helpful.

Was this review helpful? Yes | No | Report a Concern

A Terrific Podcast - A Revelation and an Inspiration ★★★★★

by goodguyseatpie – Sep 12, 2015

I'm a father and a teacher in need of organizational skills and desperate to simplify my life. This podcast has had such an impact on me. Vanessa and Dan are so good at explaining simplicity and explaining techniques and tools - they are natural teachers! Both are former military, and this comes through in every episode - but don't think that you'll be asked to adhere to military-style discipline. I have adopted so many of their mantras I couldn't list them all! "Later is not on the calendar" "Do I need it? Do I use it? Do I love it?" "If it ain't inspected it's neglected" etc They have a mindful, but realistic, philosophy regarding consumerism. Their family-values, vanilla conservatism, and Christianity come through occasionally, but I find it endearing rather than cloying - and I'm a godless liberal ;-). One of my favorite aspects of the show is the rapport and chemistry between Vanessa and Dan. They are so fun to listen to and bring joy to what could be a clinical topic. Bravo!

Entertaining, greatly enjoyable, useful, helpful ★★★★★

by Aprice85 – Sep 10, 2015

I've been working my way through all the episodes. I'm only on 31 so far and looking forward to the rest. Dan and Vanessa are a charming couple; they present very useful information in an intelligent and entertaining way. As a military brat whose parents retired in San Antonio, I love the references to military life and the city! Listening to the podcast has inspired me to take a good hard look at the items collecting dust in my apartment home and finally get rid of the things I don't need anymore. What a gift!

Was this review helpful? Yes | No | Report a Concern

AWESOME ★★★★★

by Enicole818 – Aug 24, 2015

This podcasts hosts are the perfect combination! Dan and Vanessa cover everything from basic organizational skills to relevant technology hints, programs, and other cool stuff. Great information and inspiration!!!! Highly recommend!

1 out of 1 listeners found this review helpful.

Was this review helpful? Yes | No | Report a Concern

Love it! ★★★★★

by Chamokid – Aug 3, 2015

I thank you guys so much for this podcast! I found it a couple of months ago and am making my way through all the episodes. I am on the path to simplify and you guys keep me inspired. I am not very tech savvy, so I really appreciate Dan's tutorials and advice. And I love organizing, so I feel a true sisterhood with Vanessa. Btw, I think the "any hows" and "any whos" are adorable :-). I will look forward to new podcasts, however often it fits into your lives.

by WitchipooWitchipoo – Aug 2, 2015

My dear DIL hooked me up with your podcast feed a few days ago, and I have been listening to 3 or 4 episodes every day--some of them twice! I've been on the decluttering path for longer than I care to say, and your podcasts motivate me to do even more to lead a simple life. You're a great team--I love the sincere comradery and sense of humor that comes across in your voices!

1 out of 1 listeners found this review helpful.

Was this review helpful? Yes | No | Report a Concern

Thank goodness for archives! ★★★★★

by Suea626 – Jun 24, 2015

I came to this podcast just when they announced they were stopping regular broadcasting and I was very disappointed, until I discovered that all 76 episodes are still available. I've listened through episode 028 and, regardless of the original airdate, Vanessa's de-cluttering advice is timeless and valuable; I'm withholding judgment about the tech stuff since a lot has changed since 2013 when they first started but, knowing their thoroughness, I think Dan will probably update tech info as it develops. Dan & Vanessa obviously enjoy their work and each other. Their enthusiasm is contagious and it's fun to listen to.

CONTACT INFO: Remember...you can find all our contact info at SimpleLifeTogether.com/vanessa or SimpleLifeTogether.com/dan.

Wrap Up:

OK, so that's it for Episode 77 of Simple Life Together. It's so great to catch up with you, and we wish you and those you love a very happy, healthy and simple holiday season, and we wish you all the blessings the New Year brings.

We know you love to share stuff you know others will enjoy. Plus it makes you look smart. So, share

SimpleLifeTogether.com with a friend. They're sure to enjoy it, and when they think of you they'll be like... "That's one smart cookie!"

And we'd love your to read your comment from iTunes on our next episode! Take a minute to leave a rating and a review. If you're not sure how, just go to SimpleLifeTogether.com/iTunes and there's a quick how-to.

So until next time we hope you enjoy your...

SIMPLE LIFE TOGETHER

Resources and Links:

Supermom vs Super Mom <http://amzn.to/1w3jof5>

All Simple Life Together Episodes

<http://SimpleLifeTogether.com/showlist>

