



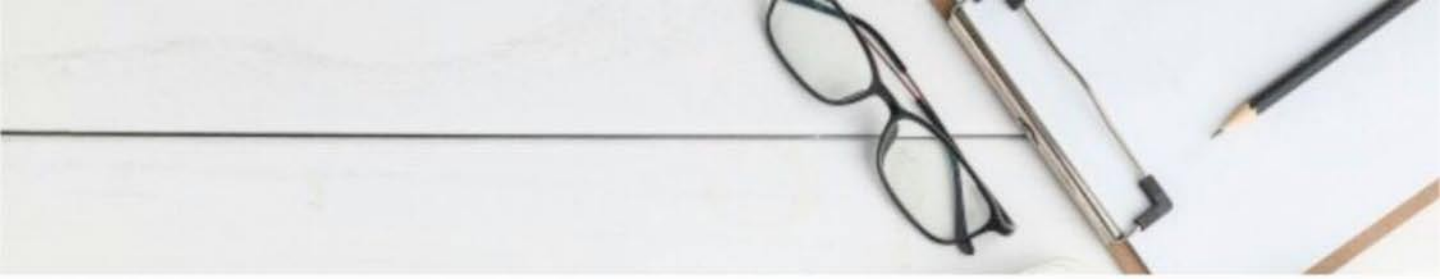
## Simply Adding

Luke is 18 and entering his final year of formal schooling. Our first session reveals that he has a quiet, deep presence and his soft voice communicates a wisdom beyond his years. He was admitted to the juvenile wing of the psychiatric hospital for cannabis abuse. This habit had began a year ago and after much discussion we both agreed that this was 'an experiment gone wrong'. He had never intended becoming dependent on this gateway drug.

We both agreed that cannabis had also become his medication. It comforted his sadness, softened his loneliness and temporarily erased his inner feelings of rejection. He was a child of a mistress who was abandoned at birth by his father. The fact that his father came from an affluent political family that graced the news headlines on a regular basis, seemed to intensify his pain. Was he worth nothing?

Our sessions focused on his primary parental relationships - we excavated, dug deep, tossed out emotional rubble and created some new clean ground. He began to understand that he was thought of and conceived in the mind of God, long before the foundations of the earth. He was divinely loved and never forsaken. Slowly, he began to embrace and soak in these eternal truths.





Just prior to discharge he said he felt positive about his future and liked who he was becoming. He wanted to pursue his dream of practicing commercial law one day. His parting words to me was: 'I don't want to be one of those people who simply add to the numbers, I want my life to make a difference in this world. I want to fulfill my destiny'.

### Reflection

- Do you sometimes feel like an outcast?
- Today, remember that God conceived you in His mind long before the earth was even created. You have a unique destiny.

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