If you have a houseful of children, living simply is going to look different for you than for someone without children, or someone whose children go to school each day. As you see simple practices in a friend's life, ask about the principles behind them—then figure out the particulars that will work for your life, for your family.

"[God] determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live." Acts 17:26

P.S. Don't forget that simplicity doesn't happen overnight. We live in an instant society—and so when we decide we want simplicity, we want it *now*. But simplicity is a process. It took some time for life to get to where it is now; it will take some time to get it pared back down. Go easy on yourself!

B: Be realistic

"A simple life for me has to take place within my life—not yours, not my neighbor's, not off somewhere in my imagination."

—from "A Simple Life," *Living Simply*, page 41

It's so easy to look at someone else's life and think, *I want her life!* But part of being realistic is realizing that living simply is lived out in your life. Not mine. Not your best friend's. Not on the set of *Little House on the Prairie*—no matter how much I like that idea!

It's so easy to compare ourselves to others, isn't it? We see something in someone else's life and try it, but then feel bad when it doesn't work. *What's wrong with me?* we wonder. We have to recognize that while the principles of simplicity may be the same, the particulars may be very different.