

Love Echoed Back
I Cried Out; He Answered

Study Guide

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Study Syllabus

Date _____ Review Outline, Small Group Flow, Study Pointers

Date _____ Introduction: My Heart to Yours/Chapter 1: Spiritual Oz

Date _____ Chapter 2: When the Rain Lasts All Day and All Night

Date _____ Chapter 3: Life Redefined

Date _____ Chapter 4: The Road Less Traveled

Date _____ Chapter 5: Life, His Way

Date _____ Chapter 6: Are We There Yet?

Date _____ Chapter 7: Have You Arrived Yet?

Date _____ Chapter 8: Daddy's Girl/Conclusion: The Widow's Oil

Small Group Commitment

Welcome to Small Group at _____ (church name).
Congratulations on your desire to grow deeper in your relationship with God through this weekly study and the relationships that will begin in this Small Group.

As a member of this group, you will be asked to enter into a covenant with the other members to make this Small Group a priority. To be a part of the group, you are asked to make the following commitments:

- 1) I will make this group a priority by attending each week, keeping up with my assignments, and participating openly in group discussion.
- 2) I will regularly attend _____ (church name) services and contribute to the ministry of the church through my attendance, giving, service, and inviting of others.
- 3) I will strive to build authentic relationships with those in this group by showing care, providing encouragement, and praying for their needs.
- 4) I will SERVE together with my group once a semester and will PLAY together with my group at least once.
- 5) I will honestly explore my next steps for spiritual growth.

Name

Date

Introduction: My Heart to Yours

DAY ONE

Life Today

The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

Ps. 32:8 NLT

Let's begin this study by taking inventory of our lives and our Christian walk.

1. What movie, TV show, or song describes your walk with Christ? (Have fun with this one!)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Eph. 6:12 NIV

2. What are you struggling against? (e.g., finances, relationships, etc.)

3. Can you sense something more going on than what you see on the surface? How?

Scripture brings to light life is really a series of _____ and _____ . They are the reflection of _____ or _____ . We

must:

- Control our _____ and _____ .

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

...Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James 1:2-4, 12 NIV

4. How do you feel about God testing your faith versus the reward promised (i.e., crown of life)?

Let the **redeemed** of the Lord say so, whom He has delivered from the hand of the adversary ...

Ps. 107:2 AMP

“I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have **redeemed** you.”

Isa. 44:22 NIV

In this world, everyone is expendable; however, though Jesus, everyone is redeemable.

5. What does it mean to you to be redeemed?

6. As a Christian, what are your short-term and long-term goals for next year in regards to your spiritual growth?

Challenge:

Tape Psalm 32:8 to a mirror. Memorize this verse, and take it to heart. Ask God to show you the path for your life and to open your eyes to things you have not opened yourself up to out of fear or anxiety.

Chapter 1: Spiritual Oz

DAY TWO

Dear God

*Help my unbelief,
My discouraged heart.*

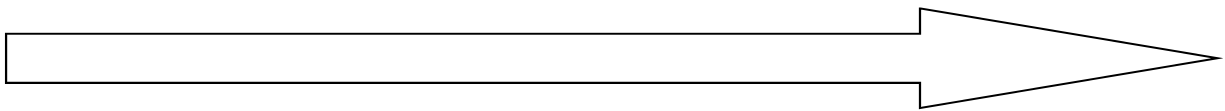
*Help me reposition myself,
See the vision You have set before me,
Walk through the doors You have opened.*

...

1. What part of *Dear God* grabbed you the most? Is there any piece of it that reflects your current state of mind?

Let's take a moment to gauge our spiritual temperature.

2. On a scale of 0-10, where are you in relation to sharing your faith?



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Not ready to share

Freely sharing

No matter the level you find yourself on, what makes you feel the most inadequate about sharing your faith?

3. Do you feel Jesus working in your life? The Bible states we are all works in progress (Philippians 1:6). So, which area(s) in your life still needs cleaning?

Job continued his discourse: "How I long for the months gone by, for the days when God watched over me, when his lamp shone on my head and by his light I walked through darkness!"

Job 29:1–3 NIV

Sweet Spot:

A zone, a region, a life precinct in which you were made to dwell. He tailored the curves of your life to fit an empty space in his jigsaw puzzle. And life makes sweet sense when you find your spot. —Max Lucado

At one point, Job had reached his 'sweet spot.' He had a large family, was well respected in his community, and was considered wealthy. At that point in his life, he appeared to be in the center of God's will. Then, like us, his world changed in a matter of hours.

4. Have you experienced living in 'the zone'? Are you there now, or do you long (like Job) to return to that 'sweet spot' in your life? Does your 'sweet spot' intersect with the center of God's will?

Challenge(s):

Take the piece of the poem, *Dear God*, that speaks to you the most and repeat it throughout the day daily.

We can all be healers through the power of Jesus. Pray the prayer on page 3 of the book, and seek your mission in life.

Chapter 1: Spiritual Oz

DAY THREE

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 NIV

1. If you have experienced a life-altering issue, who do you believe was at the center of it? How does 1 Peter 5:8 influence that opinion?

Certainly, there are times in life where we have little to no discord in our life. If we are walking with Jesus, however, it is not the norm for this to continue for months to years. If the waters of life are like glass, consider the fact that no movement equates stagnation ...and God is never stagnate!

2. Has your life reflected more stagnation or more chaos of late?

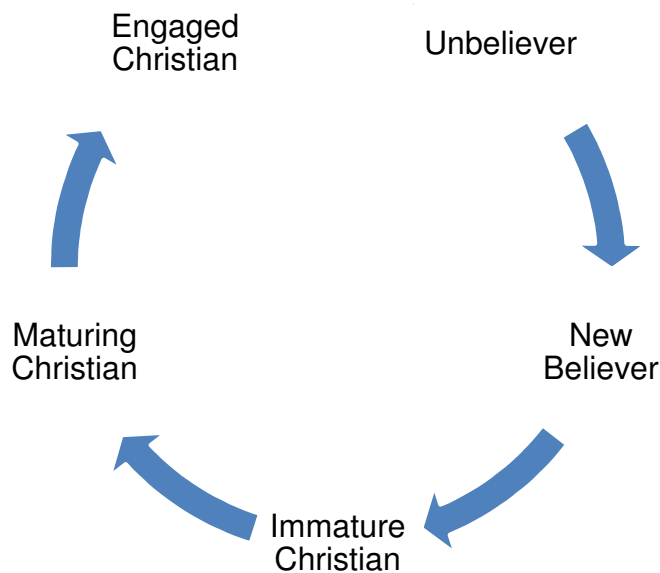
Surviving the Initial Attack

So God has given both his **promise** and his **oath**. These two things are **unchangeable** because it is **impossible** for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have **great confidence** as we hold to the **hope** that lies before us. This hope is a **strong** and **trustworthy** anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.

Heb. 6:18-19 NLT

3. How does Hebrews 6:18-19 affect your viewpoint about the God you believe in?

4. Have you ever heard the concept of “going to the next level” when it comes to God’s plan for your life? What level below would you place yourself on? How are you going to get to the next level?



5. What can you do to stretch outside your comfort zone?

6. Are you actively involved in self-Bible study, small group, and/or Sunday worship?
Are you just showing up or are you engaged, devoted, and/or seeking?

Challenge:

Find a Bible plan that takes you through the New Testament in 60-90 days.

Chapter 1: Spiritual Oz

DAY FOUR

Finding True Comfort in the Middle of a Crisis

... the Father of _____ and the God of all _____, who _____ us in all our troubles, so that we can _____ those in any trouble with the _____ we ourselves receive from God. (2 Cor. 1:3-4 NIV)

1. What discomfort have you experienced that might be used by God in assisting others?

Gaining Peace from the One True Source

And the _____ of God, which transcends all _____, will guard your _____ and your _____ in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:7 NIV)

2. Verse 7 differentiates God's peace from natural peace. How is God's peace described? Have you experienced that peace?

Enduring the Challenge Before You

... the testing of your faith produces _____. Let _____ finish its work so that you may be _____ and _____, not lacking anything. (James 1:3-4 NIV)

3. According to James 1:3-4, what is the end result of a trial if we submit to God's will and work through it with a proper attitude?

Humility Trumps Pride

_____ yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may
_____ in due time. (1 Peter 5:6 NIV)

4. Peter tells us to approach a trial with humility. What does that mean to you?

Challenge:

Based on the four scriptures presented, give an explanation of which one affects you the deepest, and why?

Chapter 1: Spiritual Oz

DAY FIVE

Finding Eternal Things by Living through Temporal Things

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an _____
_____ ... (2 Cor. 4:17 NIV)

1. What percentage of time do you spend focused on eternal things? Name two things you will begin doing this week to refocus your attention to more heavenly things.

Everything in life is temporary, but everything with Christ is eternal.

Learning to Let the Pain and Suffering of a Trial Work

For it is _____ if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. (1 Peter 2:19 NIV)

2. What is the most unjust thing you have either experienced or known someone to bear? How did it make you feel? How do you view it now in light of God's justice?

Our best defense of ourselves is only as strong as God's weakest effort to protect us.

Trusting in the Law of Sowing and Reaping

A man _____ what he _____. (Gal. 6:7 NIV)

3. What can be sown (or done) in the middle of a test that would reap (or create) a positive outcome?

How we define our existence in relation to God, decisions plus actions, fuels an activity that occurs constantly, sowing produces reaping.

Relying on His Protection

To him who is able to keep you from _____ ... (Jude 1:24 NIV)

4. Can you give an example of a time when knowing Jesus kept you from 'stumbling' into sin?

Challenge(s):

Based on the four scriptures presented, give an explanation of which one affects you the deepest, and why?

Create a list of 'go to' verses this week. Post them everywhere in your house!

Chapter 2: When the Rain Lasts All Day and All Night

DAY ONE

The Door

*I know You are there on the other side of this door.
The door that keeps me locked in and You locked out.*

I hope, after reading *The Door*, you come to this conclusion: Jesus does not intentionally stand outside of our hearts — we are either not letting Him in or not allowing Him into specific areas. His greatest desire is that we let Him in and allow Him to move around freely.

1. What, if any, prompting did you receive from God after reading *The Door*? Did He use the words of this poem to speak to you about your perspective of Him?

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Eccl. 3:1–8 (NIV)

2. How does this Scripture influence your view of the world, and your life specifically?

Now this I know: The LORD gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand.

Ps. 20:6 NIV

2. Psalm 20:6 states that God gives victory to His anointed, and He answers him. Is there a time when God does not answer us? Explain how you have drawn your conclusion(s) about this issue?

However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”— the things God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Cor. 2:9 NIV

3. When have you overstepped God and not waited on His plan for your life? What was the result?

4. What area(s) of your life do you still need to give to Jesus?

There is invariably a point where we have to release the situation to Christ so that He can work through us and for us, because His plans are always better.

Challenge:

Pinpoint an area you need to give to Jesus, and then ask Him to start moving in that specific area. If necessary, seek to be prayed over to break that stronghold.

Chapter 2: When the Rain Lasts All Day and All Night

DAY TWO

1. What life event(s) has occurred that has impacted you to the core? Can you see God in it? How has this event(s) shaped you?

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

Lam. 3:22–26 NIV

This section of Scripture is most often credited to Jeremiah as he looks around the city of Jerusalem. The Israelites, at this point in time, had just experienced the judgment of God, the city was in ruins, and the people were utterly devastated. At the core of this scene was the sin of the people, which had brought them to this point. Yet in this horrible situation, Jeremiah musters up enough faith to speak the words above.

2. Have you ever felt alone in your sin? If so, was there a point that God provided some sense of hope OR are you still seeking that comfort?

The Bible is full of examples of people who have gone through difficult circumstances:

| Bible Character | Loss |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Job | Family/Finances |
| David | Integrity |
| Mary (Jesus' mother) | Child |
| Woman at the Well | Self-Worth |

3. What loss would be the most devastating to you, and why? Can you think of any situation the Bible does not cover?

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained by living a godly life.

Prov. 16:31 NLT

A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death
better than the day of birth.

Eccl. 7:1 NIV

4. Death is a huge social issue. We, even as Christians, don't always handle it well. How does Proverbs 16:31 and Ecclesiastes 7:1 make you feel about aging and death?

In times of confusion, in times of grief, and for every time in between, the Bible provides us with a roadmap to life.

- Realize life isn't _____, but God is _____.

5. Are you using the Bible as your roadmap? Is it your GPS (God-pointing system)? Give an example.

Challenge:

If you are struggling with a specific life event, identify the emotions you are feeling (e.g., anger, grief, doubt, jealousy). Then, find two scriptures on how we should handle them.

Chapter 2: When the Rain Lasts All Day and All Night

DAY THREE

1. Have you sought out the Lord at any given point in life? What did He reveal to you?

If you are still fishing in shallow water, God wants you to know He is waiting where the waters are deep!

Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The LORD gave me what I had, and the LORD has taken it away. Praise the name of the LORD!" In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.

Job 1:20–22 NLT

2. What impression of Job do you have from this Scripture passage? Why would God give us such a picture?

3. Has God taken you to a breaking point in life? What was your reaction?

I know that You can do all things, and that no thought *or* purpose of Yours can be restrained *or* thwarted. [You said to me] Who is this that darkens *and* obscures counsel [by words] without knowledge? Therefore [I now see] I have [rashly] uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know ... *I had heard of You [only] by the hearing of the ear, but now my [spiritual] eye sees You.* Therefore I loathe [my words] *and* abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.

Job 42:2–3, 5-6 AB, italics mine

4. Have you ever been overwhelmed by God's greatness? What were the circumstances?

5. Have you been caught in a situation that you wanted it to turn out one way, but it went another? What did you learn about yourself, about God, and about His authority to rule over our lives?

Looking back now, I believe Jesus was allowing me a glimpse of where I thought I wanted to be, so as time passed, I would come to realize that instead of reaching forward, I was reaching backwards.

6. Are you looking backwards or reaching forward?

Challenge:

If you are going through something right now, write a simple prayer to God and ask to see His hand in it.

Chapter 2: When the Rain Lasts All Day and All Night

DAY FOUR

I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted. I remembered you, God, and I groaned; I meditated, and my spirit grew faint. You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak. I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked: "Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again?"

Ps. 77:1–7 NIV

1. When was the last pity party you threw yourself? Have you had the same doubts as David in Psalm 77? If so, did you feel you were less of a Christian for having them?

2. Have you counted your blessings lately? Take time to write 10 blessings in your life.

These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience): the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath. *They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD's commands,* which he had given their ancestors through Moses.

Judg. 3:1–4 NIV italics mine

3. Are you starting to see trials in a different light? How do you feel when God tests your faith?

4. Active vs. passive faith — Give examples of each from the Christian perspective.

Praise the LORD, who is my rock. He trains my hands for war
and gives my fingers skill for battle.

Ps. 144:1 NLT

5. In your walk with Christ, what victories have you experienced (i.e., what areas of breakthrough have you had?) Can you relate them to “breaking the surface” and feeling accomplished?

Reaching our spiritual milestones is more important to God than even our physical or financial ones.

Challenge:

Make a list of your spiritual milestones to date. List the next milestone on your list you hope to accomplish. Have a friend pray with you and hold you accountable in striving to meet it.

Chapter 2: When the Rain Lasts All Day and All Night

DAY FIVE

“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. *Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.*”

John 4:21–24 NIV italics mine

1. How deep down does your worship go? Do you have more moments of superficial worship than deep spiritual worship? Can you identify what holds you back from deep spiritual worship at times?

2. Read Matthew 3:16 through 4:11 for yourself. Which area(s) below do you struggle in the most?

-Lust of the flesh

-Lust of the eye

-Pride of life

3. What is God removing from your life to help you see the situation differently?

Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Ex. 14:13–14 NIV

4. Do you allow the viewpoint of others to rule your life? When has the decisions of other people affected you? How have you dealt with it?

A few verses to keep in mind when these situations occur are:

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32 NIV

“Be still, and know that I am God...” Ps. 46:10 NLT

When you start to see the trials of life as the thing that will set you free from your worldly vantage point—you will find freedom!

But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Ps. 33:18–22 NIV

5. List two instances where God has shown love to you. What detail(s) did He specifically take care of so you were certain He did it?

...But Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees. Then he said to his servant, "Go and look out toward the sea." The servant went and looked, then returned to Elijah and said, "I didn't see anything." Seven times Elijah told him to go and look. Finally the seventh time, his servant told him, "I saw a little cloud about the size of a man's hand rising from the sea."

1 Kings 18:42-44 NLT

6. What rain cloud are you hoping to see? (i.e., what are you asking God for?) Are you standing in His promise(s) or tapping your foot with impatience?

Challenge:

Describe the steps you will take to conquer your struggle with either lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, or pride of life.

Chapter 3: Life Redefined

DAY ONE

When I wrote *Paper and Ink*, I had come to the realization that I had allowed my career to define who I was and not **whose** I was.

1. What have you allowed to define you, and how did it affect your relationship with God?

Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word.

Ps. 119:37 NLT

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

Isa. 64:6 NLT

2. What do you consider “worthless things?” How do you relate this to Isaiah 64:6?

3. Look at Romans 13:1-5. What questions does this passage bring to mind? How do you view those in authority in light of this passage?

Injustices will happen in this world; how they are faced will define them.

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Rom. 12:19–21 NIV

4. This passage in Romans is very familiar to many. Have you been able to apply this to your life, and how?

Challenge:

Think of one person who has wronged you in the past and pray for that person this week.

Chapter 3: Life Redefined

DAY TWO

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Matt. 6:19–20 NKJV

1. Where do you stand on materialism? Is there something you possess that you would have a hard time letting go of?

2. Where on your list of priorities do finances fall? What can you do to improve your financial goals?

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Mal. 3:10 NIV

3. How do you feel about tithing? If you do tithe, what initial fears did you hold?

4. Read either version of the Widow’s Mite (i.e., Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21: 1-4). What does this story say to you?

Challenge:

Start practicing letting go of things—start small (e.g., couple of dollars, a necklace, some clothes), and see what God brings you.

Chapter 3: Life Redefined

DAY THREE

1. Have you or your family been taken by surprise concerning a health condition? When you hear of someone who is severely ill, what thoughts cross your mind?

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Cor. 13:4–7 NIV

2. Take some time to meditate on these verses in 1 Corinthians. What characteristic of love are you best at showing?

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

Isa. 55:8–9 NLT

3. Has there been a time when Jesus surprised you regarding the plans He had for you? How did you respond?

Those who were my enemies without cause hunted me like a bird. They tried to end my life in a pit and threw stones at me; the waters closed over my head, and I thought I was about to perish. I called on your name, LORD, from the depths of the pit. You heard my plea: “Do not close your ears to my cry for relief.” You came near when I called you, and you said, “Do not fear.” You, Lord, took up my case; you redeemed my life.

Lam. 3:52–58 NIV

4. Do you see God as your protector? Give an example of when you knew God was protecting you from something.

【 Status is nothing to God; relationship is everything. 】

5. List five ways you have worked on your relationship with God in the last 30 days. If you don't have as many blanks filled in as you feel there should be, what ONE thing can you commit to doing today? (e.g., giving him the first 15 minutes of your day, praying nightly, reading the Bible daily)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Challenge:

Commit to showing one additional characteristic of love to a family member or friend this week.

Chapter 3: Life Redefined

DAY FOUR

She had heard the reports concerning Jesus, and she came up behind Him in the throng and touched His garment, For she kept saying, If I only touch His garments, I shall be restored to health. And immediately her flow of blood was dried up at the source, and [suddenly] she felt in her body that she was healed of her [distressing] ailment.

Mark 5:27–29 AB

When reading about the woman with an issue of blood, I hope you get a sense of the major physical obstacles she had to overcome to reach Him.

- She was probably anemic and weak from her condition.
- She was an unclean woman within a huge Jewish crowd.
- She had to push and fight to get to Him.

1. See the desperation? Can you relate to her need for Jesus?

2. Now, identify what is keeping you from seeking Jesus that hard. Is it complacency, disbelief, pride?

If you give your emotional struggles “a physical feel,” you can begin to fight your way to the Savior.

3. If you feel you are stuck in time, what insights have you gained?

Challenge:

If the conversation between Jesus and you seems quiet, pray that Jesus will start shedding light on what He is teaching you.

Chapter 3: Life Redefined

DAY FIVE

The LORD will work out his plans for my life— for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever. Don't abandon me, for you made me.

Ps. 138:8 NLT

We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.

Prov. 16:9 NLT

You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail.

Prov. 19:21 NLT

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

James 1:22 NLT

1. Perhaps you will not go into full time ministry, but you are still called to serve. Contemplate the scriptures above, and map out below what you would like to do for God if you had the time, the resources, and a clear path to accomplishing it. Dream BIG!!!

It isn't what you **keep from doing** that excites the Lord; it's what you **do!**

Chapter 4: The Road Less Traveled

DAY ONE

... When space and time and doubts no longer separate us,
will we then perceive only a part of all that You are?
Life is only a shadow, a mist we are passing through.
Time is only an illusion.
When all things are revealed, we will stand amazed,
overwhelmed by our lack of understanding,
our lack of wisdom. ...

How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone.

James 4:14 NLT

1. When you consider James 4:14, what becomes your top priority in life?

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.”

Matt. 7:13–14 NLT

2. How do you explain this concept of ‘the narrow gate’ to nonbelievers?

3. We all have things that we are praying for. What are you waiting to hear from God about this week? Name your top 3 concerns.

So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty."

Zech. 4:6 NIV

4. What are you trying to do on your own? What prevents you from handing it over to God?

Challenge:

This week write out your top three prayers and ask God to provide a solution or instruction. Then tear them up before God as a symbol that you know He has handled the issue(s).

Chapter 4: The Road Less Traveled

DAY TWO

1. After reading about the life of Joseph, does any part of his life reflect your life? What part strikes the most resemblance to yours? (If not Joseph, which Bible character do you relate to the most, and why?)

He called down famine on the land and destroyed all their supplies of food; and he sent a man before them—Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, *till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the LORD proved him true.* The king sent and released him, the ruler of peoples set him free. He made him master of his household, ruler over all he possessed, to instruct his princes as he pleased and teach his elders wisdom.

Ps. 105:16–22 NIV, italics mine

2. After hearing the words in Psalm 105 concerning Joseph, what hope does it give you about God's acknowledgement of our intentions?

3. Currently, where do you feel opposition in life? If you don't, are you concerned?

4. Has there been a particular sermon that has made a huge difference in your life? Which one and how?

Challenge:

Put this question in a prominent place in your home and refer to it daily for two weeks:

Am I expecting Jesus to follow me or am I willing to follow Jesus?

Journal what the Lord tells you during this time and use it to grow closer to Him.

Chapter 4: The Road Less Traveled

DAY THREE

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Eph. 2:10 NLT

1. How does this passage from Ephesians shift your perspective about God's timing?

Most of us underestimate what God wants to accomplish in us and through us. I'm not sure if we underestimate ourselves, or we underestimate who God is. God is big; God is amazing; God is huge; God is powerful. Do you really think an amazing, powerful God is going to choose you and give you a plan for your life that is a ho-hum, anybody could do it kind of plan? —Jamey Stuart

2. Does the above quote hit home for you? Have you been underestimating God, and how?

“And now my life seeps away. Depression haunts my days. At night my bones are filled with pain, which gnaws at me relentlessly.”

Job 30:16–17 NLT

3. Have you experienced a breaking point on your journey to ultimate freedom in Christ? Describe those emotions.

“But my servant Caleb—this is a different story. He has a different spirit; he follows me passionately. I’ll bring him into the land that he scouted and his children will inherit it.”

Num. 14:24 MSG

4. What kind of hope does the story of Caleb give you in regards to the things you feel God has promised you or prayers you have made?

Challenge:

List any prayers or dreams you are glad were NOT answered and the positive things that came out of it.

Chapter 4: The Road Less Traveled

DAY FOUR

On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”

So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a human being. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel!

Josh. 10:12–14 NIV

1. What is the boldest prayer you have ever prayed to God? How does it compare to Joshua's prayer?

2. Read 1 Kings 18:33-38. Is there anything or anyone too hopeless or too far gone for God to use?

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior ... *“But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”*

Isa. 43:2–3, 18–19 NLT italics mine

3. Are you ready for God to do something new in your life? What does that look like for you?

Can you say to Jesus, “I know You are great; I know You are awesome. You can handle my issues, questions, and doubts. In fact, You can handle all of me at the same time You handle everything else in the world! It is no match for You. Here I am, use me.”

4. How long has it been since you said to God “use me” 100%? What fears do you have in saying something along these lines?

Challenge:

Write a bold prayer out and repeat it until you can muster all the faith and courage you can to proclaim it as done.

Chapter 4: The Road Less Traveled

DAY FIVE

Then Hannah prayed: "My heart rejoices in the LORD! The LORD has made me strong. Now I have an answer for my enemies; I rejoice because you rescued me. No one is holy like the LORD! There is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." "Stop acting so proud and haughty! Don't speak with such arrogance! For the LORD is a God who knows what you have done; he will judge your actions." ... "He will protect his faithful ones, but the wicked will disappear in darkness. No one will succeed by strength alone."

1 Sam. 2:1-3, 9 NLT

1. The age-old question for Christians is, "Can you maintain a high level of praise for God during the good times at the same intensity level you cry out to Him in the bad times?" Express one victory in this area.

2. What does your praise look like? (e.g., praying, singing, helping others) As you have grown in your relationship with Christ, has your style of praise changed, and how?

3. Can you believe we are halfway through the study? List two things you have learned so far that are specific to you. What do you plan to do about it?

Challenge:

If you can, clearly identify one style of praise that comes natural to you. Also, identify and try another form in which you are not as comfortable with. Step outside your comfort zone in this area.

Chapter 5: Life, His Way

DAY ONE

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.
Ps. 105:4 NIV

This verse from the book of Psalms has been near and dear to me for a long time. I have actually attached it to my personal email signature, and it goes out with my email replies. I encourage you to seek His face always.

1. Do you have one special verse you go to? Consider sharing it with the group.

Serving the Master by serving others is by far the greatest
defense we have available next to prayer.

2. Have you used “service” as a way to work through a problem? If so, what were the benefits of doing so?

3. Are you serving the local church? If not, what hesitations do you have?

If you are bold enough to ask Jesus to use you, expect Him to train you.

4. How can you balance serving the church versus participating in church only?

Challenge:

If you are not serving, seriously consider one area to serve in. If you serve in at least one capacity, are there others ways you can serve as well?

Chapter 5: Life, His Way

DAY TWO

Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore *him* in pain." And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep *me* from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

1 Chron. 4:9–10 NKJV

1. How did the story of Jabez's prayer affect you?

2. What intrigues you the most about Jabez's prayer, and why?

- Request for supernatural favor
- Request to increase the impact one makes
- Admitted dependence on God to accomplish the impossible
- A request for protection

The nature of thinking we know best has to be broken before He can truly work.

“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

Matt. 5:3 NLT

3. What does Matthew 5:3 mean to you? Who are ‘those who are poor’?

Challenge:

Place the Jabez prayer somewhere in your house and repeat it several times this week. Pick a specific piece of it to concentrate on.

Chapter 5: Life, His Way

DAY THREE

1. How do you feel about doing outreach in the community? If servant evangelism is done at your church, what were your initial thoughts regarding doing a servant evangelism project?

2. Have you given any thought to the world lately? What area of brokenness touches you the most? What can you do to help?

3. What if God calls you to go out of country to serve him?

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Matt. 6:25-27 NIV

4. In light of the discussion surrounding Nicaragua, do you struggle with day-to-day needs? Have you allowed God to fill the gap? What happened?

Challenge(s):

If you struggle with materialism or budgeting—take a course on finances. I recommend Financial Peace by Dave Ramsey.

www.daveramsey.com/fpu

Consider sponsoring a child in Nicaragua through Orphanetwork.

www.orphanetwork.org

Chapter 5: Life, His Way

DAY FOUR

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

Heb. 4:13 NLT

1. Have you contemplated the concept of God seeing everything? Although this can be extremely intimidating, do you also find it comforting?

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jer. 29:13 NIV

2. Would you allow God to strip you of anything and everything He sees fit, if it made you a better Christian? If not, you are not alone –see the story of the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22). What was the outcome of this story?

3. Are you willing to give up a heavenly reward later for an earthly treasure you have now? Be honest.

Challenge:

Research what the Bible states will be some of our rewards once life is over. List at least two.

Chapter 5: Life, His Way

DAY FIVE

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

1 Cor. 1:25–29 NIV

1. Meditate on this passage. Does it give you hope and courage that God can use whomever He desires? Do you know of someone who is being used by God, but didn't seem eligible? Share that story (maybe, it's your story).

When we start to see this life as more than an opportunity for us to prosper, we start to understand our true purposes.

I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless.

Eccl. 2:1 NLT

2. In light of King Solomon's observation in Ecclesiastes, share an experience that left you with the same conclusion?

For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matt. 20:28 NLT

3. Name one area of service you plan to improve upon this year.

True service does not factor recognition into the equation.

Challenge:

If you could pick one place to go and do missions, where would it be and why? Give some thought to making that happen.

Chapter 6: Are We There Yet?

DAY ONE

We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love ... Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

2 Cor. 6:6, 10 NLT

I love this picture that Paul gives. I strive to be that kind of Christian.

1. What area(s) are you struggling with and would like prayer over?

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Ps. 139:23–24 NLT

2. When is the last time you asked God to search your heart? Are you ready to pray a prayer like David's?

Stagnation is the true enemy of our soul. If we are not growing spiritually, we have widened the playing field for the Devil. He will not hesitate to make a move when he sees an opening.

3. Do you agree or disagree with this statement. Explain.

Challenge:

Reread 2 Corinthians 6: 6, 10. Give an example (from the last 30 days) of when you have shown:

Purity:

Understanding:

Patience:

Kindness:

Chapter 6: Are We There Yet?

DAY TWO

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.

Isa. 26:3–4 NIV

For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.

Isa. 33:22 NIV

“The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God endures forever.”

Isa. 40:8 NIV

1. Isaiah gives us some beautiful promises from God. Which passage speaks to you the most, and why?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Gal. 5:22-23 NIV

2. In Galatians, the Bible speaks of the spiritual fruit possessed by Christians. Which fruit of the Spirit is evident in your life?

3. Now, after identifying the “fruit of the Spirit” you possess, which part of the mission laid out in Isaiah 61:1-3 can you relate to the best? How do your spiritual characteristics (i.e., fruit) assist you in this area?

4. Part of Isaiah 61:1-3 is the use of our testimony. We are to ‘proclaim the good news’ and demonstrate it through what God has done in our lives. What is your testimony? Take some time to write it out.

Challenge:

Share the highlights of your testimony with the group.

Chapter 6: Are We There Yet?

DAY THREE

Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

Ps. 73:21–26 NLT

1. As we prepare to discuss the life of Paul, let's answer this question: Am I the person Christ needs me to be? You are the only one who can answer this question. Take some time and pray about it, seek His answer.

[In honesty, this truth remains—we are all works in progress.]

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

Rom. 1:16 NLT

We must realize it took time for Paul to become the person he was. The longer he walked with God, the deeper his spiritual growth was.

2. When you read Romans 1:16, do you feel you have reached the level of being completely unashamed of the gospel? Can you apply it to every situation of life yet?

【 Non-Christians are not reading the Bible; they are reading your life. 】

3. Consider the “other side” of Paul’s life, the not so glamorous one (e.g., the part where delay was present, people were unwilling to hear him, and the times of defeat that got in his way). Do you feel as if you could possibly “rise to the occasion” like Paul did? What would discourage you the most, and why?

Challenge:

Share how you would explain to a non-Christian your imperfections.

Chapter 6: Are We There Yet?

DAY FOUR

1. After reflecting on Paul's life, what thoughts come to mind? What goals would you like to set?

2. Which of Paul's writings touched you the most?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Romans 5:3-5 | Problems & Trials = Endurance |
| • 1 Corinthians 13:13 | Love |
| • Galatians 6:7-9 | Reaping & Sowing |
| • Philippians 4:8-9 | Fixing Your Thoughts |
| • Colossians 4:5-6 | Living among Non-believers |
| • 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 | Always being Joyful |

How can you use that passage to strengthen your walk?

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.

Heb. 6:10–12 NLT

3. This Scripture passage in Hebrews speaks to “not becoming spiritually dull and indifferent.” What will you do when the study is over to avoid this?

Challenge:

Use this as another great opportunity to share the passage you picked from Paul's writings and explain why it means something to you. Consider posting to social media for family and friends to see.

Chapter 6: Are We There Yet?

DAY FIVE

At the end of chapter 6, the discussion turns to putting our spiritual aspiration in motion. Work on your walk by:

1. Clearly defining your aspirations.
2. Speaking your vision.
3. Praying about it and seeking God's guidance.

1. Do you have a well-defined dream that God has given you? If not, write out all the details you have for now (and keep adding to it as He gives them to you).

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Rom. 8:31 NIV

2. How do the words of Romans 8:31 encourage you when going about your everyday life or when praying?

I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD.

Ps. 40:1–3 NLT

3. Let's focus on the part of the verse that states "Many will see what he has done and be amazed." What can you point to in your life that has changed and will make people sit up and notice?

Challenge:

Find someone in group to share your vision with and allow them to share theirs. Pray for each other.

Chapter 7: Have You Arrived Yet?

DAY ONE

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for _____ and not for disaster, to give you a _____ and a _____.”

Jer. 29:11 NLT

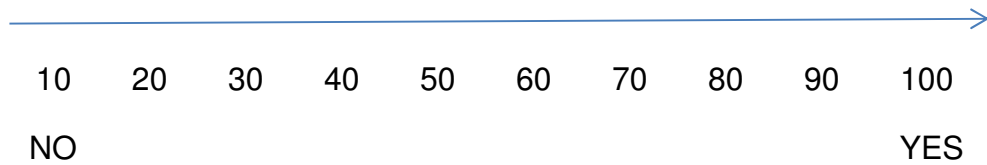
1. What plans are you hoping God has for you? How will you feel if they don't happen? How can we balance dreaming big and accepting God's will?

The LORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

Ps. 121:7–8 NLT

2. How do you justify this verse in light of all the things that have gone wrong in your life?

3. Now that we have reached chapter 7—let me ask: “Are you in a true authentic, interactive relationship with Jesus?” Mark the percentage that best represents your answer.



Wherever you land on the scale, keep working your way to 100% knowing God doesn't expect perfection, just effort.

4. Is there someone you know that we can pray for as a group that still needs to be in a relationship with Jesus?

Challenge(s):

Post Jeremiah 29:11 on your mirror and memorize this verse.

Write down 3-5 people you feel need to hear about Jesus and pray for them each night this week.

Chapter 7: Have You Arrived Yet?

DAY TWO

He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

Matt. 13:3–9 NLT

1. In this parable, Jesus spoke of 4 types of seeds. Which seed are you most like? Explain.

- The seed that fell on the footpath and is eaten by the birds
- The seed that fell on shallow soil with underlying rock and wilted in the hot sun
- The seed that fell among the thorns and was choked out
- The seed that fell on fertile soil and produced a crop

2. Which emotion plays the largest role in your life: pain or fear? Are there other emotions? Find two scriptures that address each emotion and be ready to share with the group.

Challenge:

Once you find scriptures to fight the emotions you deal with, place them all over your house.

Chapter 7: Have You Arrived Yet?

DAY THREE

Let's work on pain today.

While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, *with a loud cry and tears*, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, *he learned obedience from the things he suffered*.

Heb. 5:7–8 NLT italics mine

1. Have you really contemplated the emotions Jesus went through? We are so quick to forget that even though He knew the plan of God for Him that He also felt the emotion of it. Pain was huge in Jesus' life:

- Death of His friend Lazarus
- Concern for Jerusalem
- He sweat drops of blood over impending death

How does that affect the way you see Him?

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Rom. 8:28-29 NLT

2. How can pain be used for your good? Can you see a pattern in your life in which pain was used?

Reflect on these scriptures:

I am suffering and in pain. Rescue me, O God, by your saving power. Ps. 69:29 NLT

For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Rom. 8:22 NLT

No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Heb. 12:11 NLT

Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you, but because the pain caused you to repent and change your ways. It was the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have, so you were not harmed by us in any way. 2 Cor. 7:9 NLT

3. Do they influence your perspective on pain? What insights did you gain from them?

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.

1 Tim. 1:5 NLT

Challenge:

The Scripture above is from Paul, who was writing to Timothy. Evaluate yourself on how your walk with Christ is gaining ground in these areas:

Pure Heart:

Clear Conscience:

Genuine Faith:

Chapter 7: Have You Arrived Yet?

DAY FOUR

Now, let's talk about fear.

1. What is your biggest fear?

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

"Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

Matt. 14:28–31 NLT

2. In light of Peter's experience, are you going to get out of the boat or will you have a tendency to stay in?

According to www.biblegateway.com “fear not” is recorded in the Bible about 53 times.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power,
love, and self-discipline.

2 Tim. 1:7 NLT

3. How do you feel about 2 Timothy 1:7? Describe an experience where you were able to gain control over the fear involved and in which you allowed the power, love, and self-discipline given to you by God to rule the situation.

“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not
be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with
you wherever you go.”

Josh. 1:9 NLT

4. Are you comforted by this passage, and how?

Challenge:

Take some time to read through several passages surrounding God’s command to “fear not” (e.g., they may be simply verses on fear). List two verses you can use as “go to” verses on this subject.

Chapter 7: Have You Arrived Yet?

DAY FIVE

1. Which Psalm do you relate to best (i.e., Psalm 142, 1, 100, 23), and why?

Challenge:

As we prepare to end this study next week, re-evaluate the goals you have set for yourself after the study. Has anything changed? Do you feel anything particular rising to the top of your “must do” list?

Chapter 8: Daddy's Girl

DAY ONE

LORD, you are mine!
I promise to obey your words!
With all my heart, I want your blessings.
Be merciful as you promised.
I pondered the direction of my life,
and I turned to follow your laws.
I will hurry, without delay,
to obey your commands.
Ps. 119:57–60 (NLT)

1. Psalm 119:60 states: "I will hurry, **without delay**, to obey your commands." Relate something in your own life for which this is TRUE. What did you learn about yourself through that experience?

What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can
open.

Rev. 3:7 (NIV)

2. Have you surrendered to the fact that God is justified in shutting doors? Explain.

3. Are you sensing an urge from God to do something more? Tell us about it!

Challenge:

Write a small prayer to God asking Him to give you strength to act without delay and the wisdom to discern when doors are opening and shutting.

Chapter 8: Daddy's Girl

Hearing from the Lord does not equal listening to the Lord.

DAY TWO

1. When you are really listening for God, what are the things you do? (e.g., prayer closet, early morning/late night quiet time). In other words, how do you “get alone” with God?
2. Can you relate to the words of the song *Worn*? What situation has you “worn”?

But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the LORD; their vindication will come from me. I, the LORD, have spoken!

Isa. 54:17 NLT

3. How do you relate to “no weapon formed against you”? What comes to mind? What weapons have you felt were coming against you now or in the past?

Challenge:

Concentrate on your quiet time with God. Work on doing more listening than talking.

Chapter 8: Daddy's Girl

DAY THREE

He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.

Ps. 37:6 NLT

1. What does this passage of Scripture mean to you? Is there a situation you need justice for? If not now, was there one in the past? How have you dealt with it?

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Matt. 7:7 NIV

2. What kind of prayers has God answered that you now realize you prayed a long time ago? What period of time elapsed between your prayer and God's answer? What hope does that give you for current prayers you have prayed?

Leaving my last job and going to my current job was a much different walk. There was confidence in the unknown and trust never experienced before.

3. Are you ready to let go of the 'training wheels' and live a fully engaged life? What will be your first step?

When the Savior calls you out of something,
sometimes He calls you all the way out.

Challenge:

Are you prepared today to reverse course and do anything Christ ask? Have an honest discussion with God on this subject.

Chapter 8: Daddy's Girl

DAY FOUR

Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.

Deut. 7:9 NLT

- The two keys to God's faithfulness and love is being a person who _____ Him and _____ His commands.

1. In light of these verses, do you feel lavished by God's love? Give details!

“Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.” But Moses protested to God, “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?”

Ex. 3:9–11 NLT

2. Can you identify with Moses? Explain.

3. Which point on pages 100-101 of the book spoke to you the most, and why?

Challenge:

This week share the point you chose with someone (e.g., in person, on social media).

Conclusion: The Widow's Oil

DAY FIVE

...Tell me, what do you have in your house?

2 Kings 4:2 NIV

Take this verse to heart and see it through spiritual eyes. I think Elisha's question is both literal and figurative. Not only was he about to perform a miracle—he was assessing the widow's spiritual temperature.

1. What do you have in 'your house,' when combined with faith, can be used by God?

So do not throw away this confident trust in the LORD. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

Heb. 10:35–36 NLT

2. Are you ready to pray some God-sized prayers? What will be the subject of those prayers?

3. Are you ready to move with expectancy? Do you have any hesitancy left? How can we pray for you?

4. Express your favorite part of the study. Name one action item you will take as a result of this study.

Challenge:

Thanks for joining me on this journey. Consider posting a review on www.amazon.com or my blog: www.elainelankford.com regarding *Love Echoed Back* and the *Love Echoed Back* study guide. In your review, tell others what you have gained as a result of reading the book and doing the study. To Jesus be the glory!!