

Digging Deeper

LUKE

The DOCTOR'S gospel

STUDY guide

This book contains daily devotional readings, a prayer journal and individual study plans designed to help quizzers get the most out of their Bible Quizzing experience.
A great companion to the *Digging Deeper Review Questions Book*.

Exclusively from
 **ACME**
QUIZ PRODUCTS

DIGGING DEEPER SERIES

STUDY GUIDE

LUKE

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Committed To My Success

It is my desire to make this year in quizzing successful in every way: in competition, understanding of the Word, and a closer walk with God.

To achieve this, I commit myself to the following study plan:

_____ *(Study plan 1, 2, or 3; learn memory verses, memorize text, daily devotions, etc.)*

A Cloud of Witnesses:

As parent, I commit myself to actively support and encourage my teen's study of God's Word. I will do what I can to help with study at home and will attend at least one quiz meet this year.

signed _____ *Date* _____

As coach, I commit myself to be prepared for quiz practices and to foster an environment where quizzing and learning God's Word are enjoyable.

signed _____ *Date* _____

I realize that anything worthwhile takes effort. I commit myself to do my best to follow through on my study plan. I allow myself to be accountable to my parents, my coach, and to God. I am thankful that they love me and want me to succeed in this area of my life.

signed _____ *Date* _____

Overview Of The Digging Deeper System

The *Digging Deeper Series* of study aids was designed specifically for Teen Bible Quizzing. Using these tools will help you get the most out of quizzing – both in gaining knowledge, and in helping you put that new knowledge into practice (the ultimate goal of your study).

This Study Guide is the cornerstone of the *Digging Deeper* system. It includes daily devotionals, three levels of daily study plans, and a devotional journal. It is the foundation of an effective study plan and for helping you make a daily walk with our Lord Jesus a reality. In this book, you will be challenged to think about the Word, and then put your newfound insights into action.

The Review Questions book is an integral part of the *Digging Deeper* system. It includes all of the review questions needed to complete any of the three levels of study plans in this *Study Guide*. There are about 500 unique questions for each of the three levels and there are 1000 additional questions included as supplements. In total, the *Review Book* has about 2500 questions – plenty for a thorough coverage of the material.

The QuizMaster computer software has become the standard for effective question study and review. Like the *Review Questions* book, it too contains each of the questions from the *Study Guide's* three study plans, and a significant number more. In fact, it contains the largest collection of questions that we offer. Featuring many tools for question study, review, and printing, it is a wonderful tool for those who have a computer, and invaluable for helping the coach prepare study material for practices.

Help your quizzers learn their quotes and watch them soar. Our Quote System includes flashcards with the memory verse on one side and the reference on the other, an audio CD with each verse read aloud, and a booklet with study plans and techniques, prejump lists, progress chart, and more.

And finally, the Dramatized Audio CD will bring the text to life. Also tied to the daily study plans of the *Study Guide*, each character in the text is read by a different dramatic voice. The more senses you involve in the learning process, the better you learn; and being able to hear the Word dramatized is a big help in retaining the Scripture. This CD is especially useful for auditory learners and younger quizzers.

We pray that your study of God's Word this year will be a rewarding adventure, full of new insights and challenges, and that you will take the time to let God change you – not only your mind, but your heart as well.

May you grow in the knowledge and understanding of God's grace.

Your friends at ACME Quiz

Getting The Most Out Of Bible Quizzing

Often you will hear people say that “learning God’s Word and applying it to your life” is the most important goal of Bible Quizzing. But sometimes it is hard to see this goal being realized when so much emphasis is put on the competitive aspect of quizzing. This is not really anyone’s fault. Available study material has been mostly centered on learning questions (for example, question books, lists, concordances, etc.). And because practices are rarely long enough, it is hard to spend a lot of time digging into the Word.

The only way, really, to accomplish this goal of knowing God more fully through his Word is to spend time in personal devotion and prayer. And that is where this *Study Guide* comes in. As you follow the daily study plans to help you learn the material, you will also be reflecting on the Scripture in daily devotions. Each day’s devotional parallels the material that you are quizzing on, so it will be more relevant to you. If you are going to have a daily quiet time with God, doesn’t it make sense to base your devotions around the material you are quizzing on?

The devotionals have been designed to encourage reading, reflection, journaling, spiritual growth, and a strong heart of prayer. Let’s look at each of these disciplines in more detail:

Reading

Each day’s devotional has a brief story to lead you into thinking about Scripture and its application to your life. Just as Jesus often taught in parables, the short stories will make the Scripture relevant with insights from today’s world.

Reflect

Following the reading of the scripture passage and the introductory story, the devotionals encourage you to reflect and begin to think about how the Word can be relevant in your life.

Journal

Journaling is a wonderful way to help the Word take root. By putting your thoughts on paper, you will be able to chart your progress and growth. You will be challenged to dig deeper, seeking God’s direction for your life. Don’t skip over this activity in your devotions.

Grow

This is your opportunity to “DO”, and not just “LEARN”. James says, “Do not merely listen to the Word... do what it says.” In this part of the daily devotional, you will be challenged to do just that – take the seed planted in you and grow closer to God as you do his will and become what he created you to be.

Pray

Each devotional is summed up with a simple prayer. Make that prayer the cry of your heart. Tell God how much he means to you and seek his face. Then watch as his Spirit comes alive in you.

This year, take quizzing to a whole new level as you explore what God has in store for you!

Choosing Your Study Plan

Before you jump into studying, it is a good idea to take stock of your resources – to come up with a plan. This Study Guide includes three study plans suited for most skill levels. The one you choose will depend upon a number of factors: your skill and experience, your circumstances, your support system, and your desire. Let's look at these briefly by asking you some questions.

Skill and Experience: Do you know how to take a study plan and follow through with it? What kind of grades do you get in school? Have you ever quizzed before?

Circumstances and Available Time: Sometimes, but not always, older quizzers know how to make better use of their time. Do you have plenty of time to study? Do you have a job after school? Are you home-schooled? Quizzing takes time, and you want to take stock of the time that you have before you commit to any plan of study.

Support System: Think about your support system – your family and friends. Are they usually an encouragement, or a discouraging force? Will they help you reach your study goals, or will they drag you down? You want to be surrounded by people who will encourage you and are committed to your success.

Desire and Motivation: This is probably the most important factor in achieving success in quizzing. Are you self-motivated, or do you require someone to “push” you? Can you focus on a goal, or do you start things, but never finish them? Are you quizzing because you want to, or because your parents told you that you must... or because your friends are doing it?

The way you answer these questions should influence the decision you make about a plan of study. Let's look at the different study plans in this *Study Guide*:

Level 1 Study Plan (“Contributor”): By following this plan, you will be a consistent contributor to your team at quiz meets. You will gain a solid understanding of the material and should have a good idea of how to answer most questions. In addition to the time it takes to do your devotions, this plan is designed to take about 30 minutes a day.

Level 2 Study Plan (“Top-20” Quizzer): This plan is designed to help you finish in the Top-20 in your district. By following it, you will have a solid knowledge of the material and should be able to answer almost any question. If you add memory verses to this study plan, you should finish in the Top-10 in your district. Commitment is about 45 minutes a day.

Level 3 Study Plan (“National-level” Quizzer): This plan requires the greatest amount of daily study time, but will provide the greatest rewards. Following it should help make you a “national level” quizzer. You will want to supplement this plan with memory verses, or possibly memorization of the entire text. Commitment is about 60-90 minutes a day.

There is not any “best” plan, only the plan that is best for you. You may want to sit down with your coach to supplement your study plan with additional study activities. Room in the daily study plans has been left to write in these activities each day.

After you have chosen a plan, make sure that you fill out the “Committed To My Success” certificate on page 2 and have a parent and coach sign it. Then photocopy it and put it on your refrigerator to remind you of what great things are ahead as you learn God's Word this year.

Understanding The Daily Study Plans

All three of the daily study plans work the same way: each starts with a short devotional, and then lists specific steps to follow. To the left of each step is a check box () to check when you finish that step.

Careful thought has gone into providing a balance of new material and review of old material. By the time you finish your study plan, you will have gained a solid understanding of the material through systematic study and review. Let's look at a sample week's Level 3 plan for Chapter 7:

Sample Daily Plan	Explanation of what to do for each step of the study plan.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 6 (2x) <input type="checkbox"/> Read w/ reps 7:1-13 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: ALL 7:1-13 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 1. Study the daily devotional and see what God wants to teach you this day. To get an overview of the material, read chapter 7 twice, listening to the audio CD (if you have one). Then read again with repetition. Next, using <i>The QuizMaster</i> software, or a review questions book, study all of the Level 1, 2 and 3 questions for 7:1-13. Finally, if your coach gave you an additional study task, do that.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 7 (2x) <input type="checkbox"/> Read w/ reps 7:14-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: ALL 7:14-24 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 2. Start with your devotions, then read chapter 7 twice (again using your listening CD, if you have one). Then read with repetition 7:14-24. Use <i>The QuizMaster</i> to study all of the Level 1, 2, and 3 questions for 7:14-24. And finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 7 (2x) <input type="checkbox"/> Read w/ reps 7:25-53 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: ALL 7:25-53 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 3. Do devotions, read and listen to chapter 6 twice, read with repetition 7:25-53, and study ALL Level 1, 2 and 3 questions from 7:25-53. Finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 1-4 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: 40 from ch 1-4 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 4. Do devotions, read and listen to chapters 1-4, and then review 40 questions from chapters 1-4 using the QuizMaster software or a review question book. (Note that the first part of each week covers new material, then you review older material the last few days.) Finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 5-7 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: 40 from ch 5-7 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 5. Do devotions, read and listen to chapters 5-7, then review 40 questions from chapters 5-7. Finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.

As you get into the year, you will notice that each week's study plan has a good balance of new and old material. Review is critical if you are going to learn the material well.

Study questions to complete the daily study plans can be found in one of two sources: *The QuizMaster* computer software or the *Digging Deeper Review Questions* book. Both are available from ACME.

Level 2 uses questions marked with a ① or a ② in the *Review Questions* book, or the Level 2 collection in *The QuizMaster*. Level 3 study sessions require questions marked with a ①, ②, or ③, or the Level 3 collection in *The QuizMaster*.

Additionally, Level 3 plans often suggest "Reading with reps". Repetition reading is a method of study where you read one verse, then read that verse and the next, then 1-3, 1-4, and 1-5. After five verses, you start a new pattern 6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-9, and then 6-10. After the second group, Reread 1-10. Then start the next group: 11, 11-12, 11-13, 11-14, 11-15 and then 1-15. Continue in groups of 5 until you have covered all the material. Note: this is only one reading method; you should work with your coach to pick a method that is best for you.

Finally, don't worry if you miss a day. These study plans were designed for five days of study each week, so if you miss a day, you can easily make it up on another day. Just do your best to follow the plan, keeping your practices short, and not combining them. What you learn will stick with you much better if you develop this consistency.

DAILY DEVOTIONS & STUDY PLANS

Level 1 Plan

Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL 1:1-38 ①
- _____

Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL 1:39-56 ①
- _____

Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL 1:57-80 ①
- _____

Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL from ch 1 ①
- _____

Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL from ch 1 ①
- _____

Level 2 Plan

Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: ALL 1:1-38 ①②
- _____

Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: ALL 1:39-56 ①②
- _____

Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: ALL 1:57-80 ①②
- _____

Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Write 10 Qs from ch 1
- Qs: ALL from ch 1 ①②
- _____

Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: ALL from ch 1 ①②
- _____

Luke 1: An Orderly Account Of The Impossible

"For no word from God will ever fail." (v. 37) — NIV

Day 1: He Is Faithful

Reading: Luke 1:1-25

As a new Quizzing year begins, one of the most important things we can learn about God today is that he is faithful. As we approach the incredible story of the birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, we see from the very first pages the faithful hand of God at work. It's a story with which we are so familiar, but it's a story that centuries upon centuries upon centuries of God's people were waiting for. In fact, it is the culmination of his faithfulness. From the very first sin, God's Word stresses the need for and promise of a Savior. And God delivered on that promise. He is faithful.

What are you facing today that needs the touch of God? What prayer feels unanswered? What stresses are consuming you? Lay them at the feet of a faithful God today. He works in powerful, sometimes mysterious ways, but he is always working. The Bible says that even when we are faithless, he remains faithful (see 2 Timothy 2:13). Trust him to work in your life today!

Reflect Think about the many ways that God has been faithful in your life. Is there something you have been praying for and your prayer has not yet been answered? Keep the faith! He is faithful!

Journal Write down five ways God has been faithful in your life, then write down a way that you can show your gratitude (e.g. do something nice for someone else).

Grow We are blessed—not for the purpose of keeping it to ourselves, but that we might be a blessing to others. This is a beautiful way to express gratitude to God for all he has done. How can you give of yourself to others?

Pray "Lord, thank you for your faithfulness in my life. Thank you for allowing me to be blessed by your faithfulness. Make me a blessing to others as well. Lord, help me not to lose heart when my prayers are not immediately answered, but to trust you instead, knowing that you see the full picture and have my best interests close to your heart. Amen."

Day 2: Nothing Is Impossible

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Gina had her future all planned out: what college she would attend, what her major would be, and what she would do when she graduated. It felt good to be in control. But that was before her dad's motorcycle accident and the ensuing medical bills had wiped out most of her college fund. Now it seemed her only option was a community college that didn't even offer the major she had wanted.

Gina fell to her knees before God. "Why have you allowed this to happen?" she pleaded. And as she poured out her heart, she felt God telling her she would see her dreams come true. "It's impossible!" she thought.

That's when Gina got a phone call from a dear old lady she had known all her life. The lady said God had placed it on her heart to completely fund Gina's college education. Gina was stunned! God led her to Luke chapter 1 in her devotions and her life verse became "...nothing is impossible with God" (v. 37).

Simple biology would tell us it's IMPOSSIBLE for a virgin to conceive and give birth to a child. Yet God used the "impossible" to bring about his ultimate plan of salvation. What impossibility can he use in your life today?

Reflect What impossible situation are you facing in your life today? How can God use it for his glory?

Journal Make a list of all the things you're facing right now that seem impossible (examples might include family financial difficulties, your parents' marriage problems, college decisions, loneliness, a difficult class, or loss of a loved one, among other things). Next to your list, write out Luke 1:37.

Grow Spend some time thanking God for the times he has brought you through the "impossible."

Pray "Lord God, I am facing an impossible situation today. But I know that NOTHING is impossible with you. Give me a newfound faith that you are in control! Amen."

Day 3: Finding Favor

Reading: Luke 1:39-56

Jesse was not a humble soul. In fact, he spent a great deal of time drawing attention to himself and his accomplishments. If no one had a good thing to say about him, that was fine—he would find something good to say about himself. Pretty soon he had lost most of his friends. No one could stand being around him. He obviously did not realize that arrogance is an ugly trait.

The Bible tells us that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. It also says that pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Pride doesn't take us to the places we really want to go! Both Elizabeth and Mary were very humble souls. Elizabeth exclaimed, "Who am I that the mother of my Lord would come to me?" She was so humble she couldn't even believe she was worthy to be in the presence of the mother of the Lord, let alone the Lord himself. And Mary was a poor virgin, yet she found favor in God's eyes—so much so that in her song she proclaimed how he was mindful of her humble state.

Are you a person who takes pride in your accomplishments and constantly looks down on those around you? Do you recognize that every gift you have comes from God? Do you tend to be more prideful or humble? Is God speaking to your heart about an attitude shift?

Reflect Think about a time when you were in danger of being prideful. What was the situation? How did you handle it? What was the outcome?

Journal Write in your journal two ways arrogance affects you and those around you.

Grow Careful! You might be in danger of pride. All of us are tempted to think more of ourselves than we ought. Practice putting the focus back on the one who deserves it most this week—Jesus Christ!

Pray "Lord, thank you that your Word can sometimes function as a serving of humble pie. Help me to take to heart these words you've given today and change my attitude to be more humble. I pray that like Mary, I would only ever boast in YOU and what YOU have done for me and through me. Amen."

Day 4: Pure Evidence

Reading: Luke 1:57-66

The entire ninth grade was abuzz! What was it about the new girl? Why did she seem so happy all the time? At first her joy seemed almost unbelievable, but in time, as people got to know Carlie, they realized she was the "real deal." She didn't put on airs, but was the same genuine person regardless of who she was with. In time, Carlie became highly respected by her peers. She had established herself as trustworthy, kind, and others-minded.

It was not always easy for Carlie, especially when she first enrolled in Beaumont High. Loneliness was often her best friend during those first few days and weeks, but Carlie kept her focus on Christ, and in time truth was revealed. The Lord's hand was with her. Her popularity was not based on her own attributes, but on the love of God flowing freely and felt by anyone who took the time to get to know her.

Reflect It was obvious to the people that the Lord's hand was with John, and everyone wondered what he might become because of that. What about you? Do you feel the Lord's hand is with you?

Journal What do others see in you? Is the hand of the Lord evident in your life? Write your thoughts in your journal, and write out verse 66 beside them.

Grow *When we have a true relationship with Jesus Christ, his hand will be prominent in our lives and others will see the difference.*

Pray "Lord, I want more for my life than popularity. I want to be right before you and find favor in your eyes. Most of all, I want others to see you in me—pure and evident in my life. Amen."

Day 5: Godly Examples

Reading: Luke 1:67-80

Joe had accepted Christ when he was fourteen years old. Since that time, his relationship with God had grown. Joe knew what it meant to walk in fellowship with God and had formed an established friendship with the Lord. He was a terrific godly example to others. Everyone in the youth group loved to hear Joe pray, for his prayers were heartfelt and moving: no fancy or lofty words, just plain, simple, honest truths from Joe's heart to God's ears. His love for Christ came through loud and clear in each and every word. Most of Joe's prayers consisted of thanksgiving. He praised the Lord for everything. He would often thank God for the gift of life and the blessing of being accepted into the Kingdom. Other times he would thank the Lord for the clothes on his back and a comfortable place to sleep at night. Joe's prayers encouraged and inspired others to grow in the Lord and establish prayer lives that were full of praise as well.

Zechariah was also a great example we can learn from. He praised the Lord for all his wondrous works, remembering God's work in times past, present, and to come. And his example was handed down to his son, John the Baptist.

Reflect Read verses 76-79. Do you praise God for his works in your life like Zechariah did?

Journal Write three lines of praise to God for the work he is doing in your life.

Grow When we are growing in Christ, his love abounds in us more and more and his power becomes more and more evident. Do you give God credit for the manifestation of his Holy Spirit?

Pray "Father, thank you for the work you are doing in my life. I pray that my life-story will be written well and will speak volumes about your power and majesty. Amen."

Level 3 Plan

- Day 1**
- Daily devotions
 - Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
 - Read w/ reps 1:1-38
 - Qs: ALL 1:1-38 1000
 - _____

- Day 2**
- Daily devotions
 - Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
 - Read w/ reps 1:39-56
 - Qs: ALL 1:39-56 1000
 - _____

- Day 3**
- Daily devotions
 - Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
 - Read w/ reps 1:57-80
 - Qs: ALL 1:57-80 1000
 - _____

- Day 4**
- Daily devotions
 - Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
 - Write 10 Qs from ch 1
 - Qs: ALL from ch 1 1000
 - _____

- Day 5**
- Daily devotions
 - Read/listen to ch 1 (2x)
 - Qs: ALL from ch 1 1000
 - _____

Level 1 Plan

Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2
- Qs: ALL 2:1-21 1
- _____

Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2
- Qs: ALL 2:22-40 1
- _____

Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2
- Qs: ALL 2:41-51 1
- _____

Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2
- Qs: ALL from ch 2 1
- _____

Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2
- Qs: 50 from 1-2 1
- _____

Level 2 Plan

Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2 (2x)
- Qs: ALL 2:1-21 1 2
- _____

Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2 (2x)
- Qs: ALL 2:22-40 1 2
- _____

Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2 (2x)
- Qs: ALL 2:41-51 1 2
- _____

Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2 (2x)
- Write 10 Qs from ch 2
- Qs: ALL from ch 2 1 2
- _____

Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Read/listen to ch 2 (2x)
- Qs: 75 from 1-2 1 2
- _____

Luke 2: God's Ways Are Mysterious

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (v. 11) — ESV

Day 1: No Vacancy

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Cathy was full of excitement. It was still early in the Quizzing year and she was anxious to keep studying. She opened to the day's study plan. She was to learn Luke 2:1-7. Her excitement grew as she realized this would be an easy assignment. She had heard this story 100 times!

But as Cathy read, an unexpected thing happened. God's Spirit convicted her heart. She looked back over the previous year of Quizzing. She had done very well, often finishing in the top three at Quiz meets. But she realized something as she read. Just as there had been no room in Bethlehem for the birth of the Savior, she hadn't made room for him in her Quizzing either.

She knew that she had learned many things that would help her in her spiritual journey. After all, even if you memorize Scripture for the wrong reasons, you can't memorize it in vain. But she also knew that her drive to be the best and know the most had cost her some precious one-on-one time with God. She had put the knowledge into her head, but had neglected to let it penetrate her heart.

On that very day, Cathy began a new approach to Quizzing. She continued to study hard, learn and memorize. But she began each day with a devotion and prayer time, asking God to SPEAK to her through his Word that she was studying. She made room for Jesus in her Quizzing!

Reflect Be honest: what is your motivation for Bible Quizzing? (Don't worry, there's no wrong answer!)

Journal Could you be getting more out of Quizzing spiritually than you currently are? Prayerfully journal ways you want to do things differently with Quizzing to allow God to speak to you through the material.

Grow Be sure to make devotions a daily habit to allow God to rule your heart and life.

Pray "Jesus, thank you for the truths found in your Word. May I truly learn them this year, not just with my head, but with my heart as well! Amen."

Day 2: Rags To Riches

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

The house was old, with paint peeling from the walls and the doors hanging from broken hinges. As Jen knocked on the door to pick Jake up for the youth rally, she thought "I knew Jake wasn't rich, but wow. I didn't think his family was this poor." Perhaps it was the way Jake carried himself that made this a surprise—Jake had a magnetic personality that drew others to him. And you could always count on him to have a big smile on his face and a kind word for anyone. God's love poured out of Jake as though he were a water faucet. His joy was contagious. And now Jen knew firsthand that his joy was not based on "things" but on something deeper.

Thankfully, God does not measure how powerfully he will use us according to where we live or what clothes we have. He does not judge us by what kind of car we drive. He uses the lowly and humble in powerful ways for his Kingdom purposes. He gives "rags to riches" stories to those who let him!

Reflect Perhaps the enemy has you convinced that you will never amount to anything. Thankfully, the Lord does not look at us as the world does. The world looks at the outside, but God looks at the heart.

Journal Write one thing you have held back from God because you thought it was "not good enough." Write a prayer of surrender. God will take what you consider "not good enough" and make it "just enough."

Grow Read verses 8-12. God sent an angel to speak to the lowly shepherds, announcing the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. What does he want to reveal to you today? Humble yourself before him, seek him and you too will find him!

Pray "Lord, thank you that your love reaches even me. Thank you for blessing my life with your presence. Help me to live humbly before you so that you can reveal yourself to me in mighty ways. Amen."

Day 3: Lowly Become Great

Reading: Luke 2:21-32

Everyone wondered how Tina heard God's voice so clearly. Each week at Bible study she would share how God had spoken to her. "Why can't I hear God's voice like you do?" Jill asked Tina. "Doesn't God love me like you?" "God is no respecter of persons," Tina replied. "He loves all of his children just the same. There was a time when I did not hear God's voice in my life as clearly as I do now, but I realized it was because I was filling my life with so much noise that I couldn't hear him. I was either on my phone, watching TV or listening to music. I realized that only in taking time out, sitting quietly and making an effort to seek him and listen for his voice could I hear him."

SPIRITUAL GROWTH JOURNAL

Getting God's Word from the HEAD to the HEART

Date

I'm listening Lord...

1/1

James 1:22 — "Don't merely listen to the Word... do what it says." Lord, help me, as I study your Word this year, to allow it to go beyond my mind to my heart. I'm listening...

