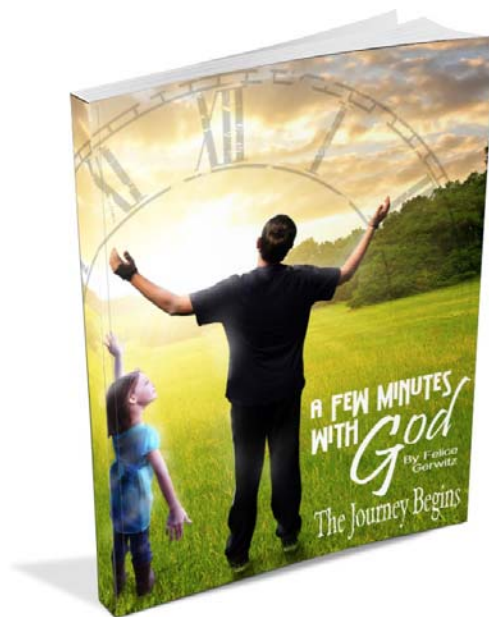


A Study Guide & Prayer Journal

A companion to the book:

A Few Minutes with God: The Journey Begins

By Felice Gerwitz



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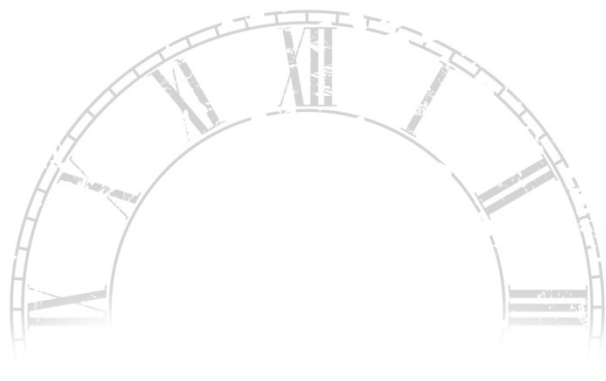
This study guide is a companion to the book, *A Few Minutes with God: The Journey Begins ...* sold on Amazon and MediaAngels.com

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Introduction:

While Joseph and Mary Fisher are fictitious characters, they can in many ways represent you and me. How many of you have struggled with your faith? How many hear God? How many want to hear God in a deeper way?

In this study guide we'll explore some of the nuances of the story, *A Few Minutes with God* and give you some things to think about, pray about and ultimately find God's small still voice.

In this study we'll explore not only the story line but the underlying questions that plague the characters in their quest to follow God's will for their lives. Use these questions as a starting point for your own Scripture study. Write in this journal, make it your own – and ask those hard questions. Only by asking questions can you find ultimate truth.

If you struggle with your faith, or hearing God in a real way, try what the book, *A Few Minutes with God* recommends. Spend time just listening. Allow Him to come into your heart and soul. If you are having trouble hearing God, you may need to pray and repent. Oftentimes we are the ones who won't allow God in. There is a famous painting of God knocking at the door, but there is no handle on His side – it is on our side. We have to open the door and let Him in, and that is my prayer for you.

The story, *A Few Minutes with God* came about after I was asked some hard questions by my own children, typical, Christian teens. One day after an intense Bible study, my children began asking in earnest questions that I had a difficult time in answering. They wanted to know how you can be certain what you "hear" in prayer is truly, the Lord, Jesus. Their questions ranged from, "How can you know it is not the enemy," to "How do you know the answer to a prayer is correct," and "How can you hear God?"

So, I did what any parent would do, I began my explanations with words like faith, belief, truth, understanding, listening and more. All I received back were blank stares. Then I went to the Scriptures and cited one of my favorite verses: “Be still and know that I am God.” Psalms 46:11, explaining that if they were still, closed their eyes and prayed, they could hear God.

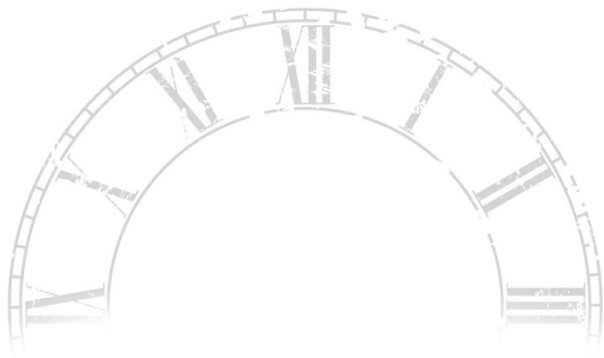
More blank stares.

That’s when I prayed to the Lord and asked for His help – how could I reach my children in a way that was clear and concise? This is what the Lord revealed to me in prayer: *Write a story and explain it that way.*

So I did. And, surprisingly the words flowed very quickly – almost effortlessly. That’s how it is when God is the wind in your sails. I finished the rough draft, made copies and handed it to my three teens. They read it – critiqued it, and got it! They had a vision for how they wanted to pray and listen to that small, still voice.

But there is more. The Lord wanted me to make this book available to all of you. How do I know? Well, every time I wanted to work on another project this one kept coming back to my mind. I kept getting this nudge to make it available. And, I finally did. It’s only taken me two years. Yes, even as an adult I find that sometimes it takes me awhile to get it right.

I pray you get it right much quicker than I did. And, in this study you are able to hear that small, still voice that says, “Be still and know that I am God.”



Chapter One: The Dream

In this chapter the scene is set for what is to come. We learn about one family who is struggling in three ways: financially, spiritually and psychologically.

Questions to Consider:

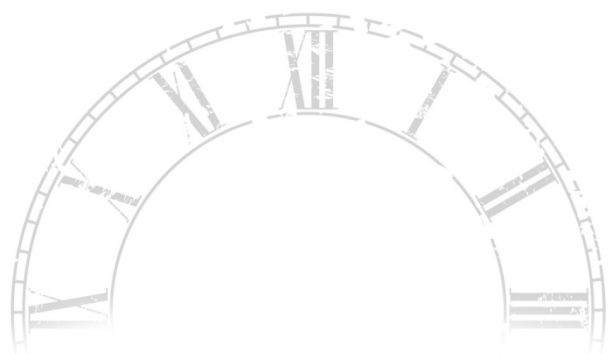
1. The main characters each have their own struggles. Which one do you identify with the most? Why?
2. Do you believe angels are real? Can you find any scripture verses that back this belief?
3. Do you remember your dreams? What is your personal experience with dreams? Is it positive or negative?

4. What do you think heaven is like?

5. Have you ever needed a faith boost?

Digging Deeper:

1. In what ways have you struggled spiritually. Do you know why? Note: Sometimes understanding why you struggle will help prevent this in the future.
2. Can the Lord speak to us in dreams or in our hearts in prayer? What has been your experience?
3. Is a prophetic dream possible? Where can you find that in the Scriptures?
4. Why is it important that Scripture parallels religious teachings today? How easy is it to get off track with someone's "revelations" that are not found in the Scriptures? (Note: Look up Matt. 7:15-16)



Chapter Two: Between Heaven and Earth

In this chapter more about the dream is revealed as well as the struggle Joseph and Mary have as they try to understand what has happened.

Questions to Consider:

1. Joseph and Mary have to attend school after a startling dream. How does this affect them?
2. Why is Joseph angry?
3. What do you think about the way Joseph handled himself?
4. What do you think Mary is feeling?

Digging Deeper

1. Have you ever had things that were out of your control that made you angry? What did you do about it? Were you happy with your choices, or how you handled your situation?
2. Do you remember your dreams? What is your personal experience with dreams? Is it positive or negative?

Chapter Three: Truth Revealed

As the time goes by we continue to live life in a very different place along with the main characters however there is one missing and important element, and that is the mother's role in this story.

Questions to Consider:

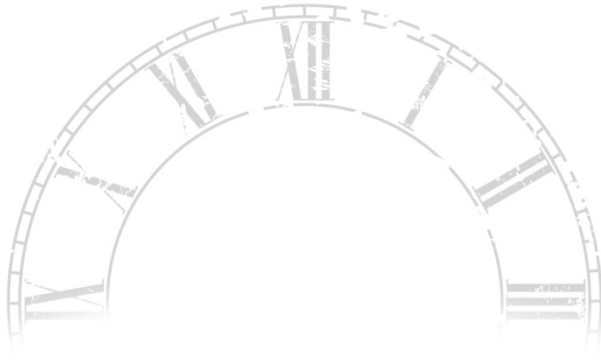
1. Why did Joseph stop questioning the Lord?
2. What has changed about the relationship between Joseph and his sister? Why?
3. Why is the mom angry?
4. How does faith help Joseph and Mary?
5. How does the lack of faith hinder the mother?
6. Why does the Lord want mom to read Matthew 6:34?

7. The gut reaction of the mother is probably not a surprise to the reader. Were you surprised and if you were the mother in this situation what would you say? Why do you think she was so upset?

Digging Deeper:

1. Have you ever wanted to go to sleep to avoid something – do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing and why?
2. If you were the mother in this situation how would you feel?
3. This book was written over three years ago, before the book, “Heaven is for Real” was popular. Do you think people will be reunited with loved ones in heaven? Why?
4. How does worrying help us? (Your answer should be that it does not 😊)
5. Have you ever turned your back on God because you don’t believe He answers your prayers? Why? Do you still feel that way?

6. Sometimes gut reactions make us do or say the wrong thing. What is the first thing we should do when we have a chance to make it better? What is the second?



Chapter Four: An Ultimatum

The challenge has begun and it is in the form of a tug-of-war between what it appears that God wants for Mary and Joseph's life and what their mom will allow.

Questions to Consider:

1. What does God direct Mary and Joseph to do once their mother says, "no," without them even asking a question?
2. What does the phrase, "Time belongs to God," mean?
3. Why did the Mary and Joseph begin a journal? How does this work out for them? Does it help?
4. Joseph thinks he is getting "soft" why does he consider this a bad thing?
5. What proof did Joseph give for knowing he did not make up what he believed God said to him in prayer?

6. How does head knowledge about faith, not necessarily make our hearts right with God?

7. How does Joseph think he and Mary are similar to the Pharisees?

8. What does Jesus say about spiritual warfare (aka: evil)?

Digging Deeper:

1. Is obedience something easy or hard for you to do? Why?

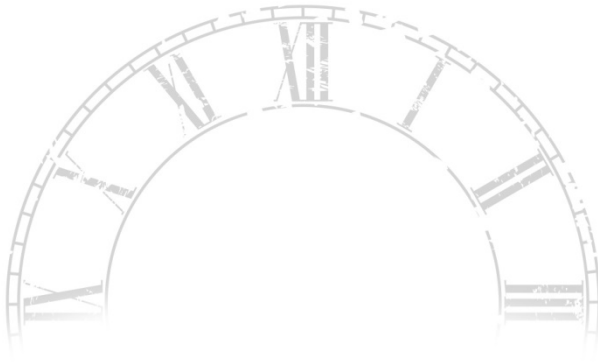
2. Obedience is important for both kids and adults. Did you ever consider this before? If so, in what way.

3. Have you ever clearly heard God's voice? If so, what did He say? How did that encounter change you?

4. What is private revelation from God?

5. Biblical revelation has ended with the writing of the Bible and scripture is very clear on the addition or subtraction of anything to God's Word. Having said that, why is it okay to receive private revelation?

6. Do you believe that spiritual warfare is real? How do you combat this?



Chapter Five: Life's Purpose

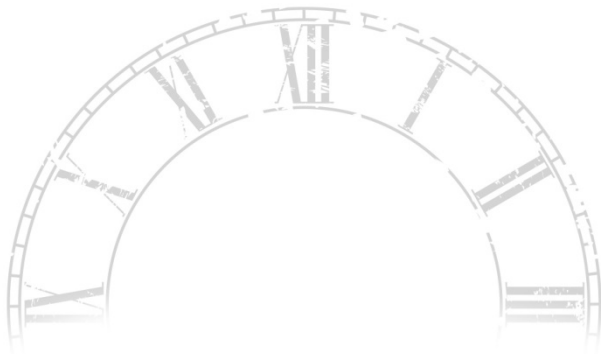
Knowing and believing are two different things, and while Joseph and Mary appear to be the model children, Mrs. Fischer is looking for clues as to the real reason for the change.

Questions to Consider:

1. What does the mom find when she wakes up? Why is this strange to her?
2. Did the Lord answer Mom's prayers about dreaming the same dream?
3. Why is their financial situation so stressed?
4. Describe Joseph's life before his dad died.
5. What does Joseph say about the impact we have on the lives of others?
6. Mary and Joe talk about seeing things differently. Explain.
7. How does God answer their prayers?

Digging Deeper:

1. Have you ever been upset not to have a prayer answered? What was the outcome? Did you keep praying or give up, believing it was not God's will for your life?
2. Being financially stressed can cause big concerns within families. What ways can this be avoided?
3. Do you believe what you do has an impact on the lives of others? How has this belief affected the choices you make?
4. Do you see things differently, through spiritual eyes? Can this be improved?
5. God always hears our prayers, however the answer isn't always, "yes" – how do you know that God answers prayers?



Chapter Six: The Crossroad

Will she or won't she, that is the question Joseph and Mary struggle as they wait to explain more, to their mother, about their dreams and what the Lord is asking of them.

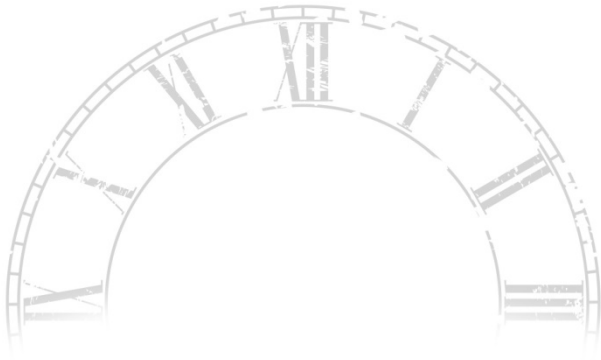
Questions to Consider:

1. Joseph decides to prepare breakfast. Why is this unusual and why does he do this?
2. Does the family attend church regularly? How do you know this?
3. The journal writing continues. What is the struggle Joseph is having?
4. Joseph is anxious and feels despair, how do we know this?
5. Joseph and Mary finally get to tell their mother about their dreams and what the Lord has directed them to do, what is it in a nutshell?
6. What is the list in Mary's journal and do you think it is good advice?

7. What quote does Mom say, without knowing it is from the Bible?

Digging Deeper:

1. Does attending church mean you have faith? Why or why not?
2. Has church attendance helped you in faith? Explain.
3. Have you doubted God? Have you shared this with your parents or an adult that will understand? How did you overcome your doubt?
4. Have you ever felt despair? To what do you attribute this feeling?
5. What is spiritual warfare? How can you combat this?
6. John 2:5 was selected by the author on purpose, do you know why?



Chapter Seven: The Mission Begins

The floodgates are open and an entire change happens in the life of the once reluctant teen and his little sister.

Questions to Consider:

1. How does life change for Joe and Mary?
2. What happens when they share a message with someone who asked?
3. What is a messenger? And, how do they handle this role?
4. Something horrible happens after school, how does Joe handle it?
5. Joe gets called out by his teacher, Mr. Davis. Why?
6. What happened at the meeting with Mom at school?

Digging Deeper:

1. When life starts going better for you, who do you thank for this?

2. Have you ever shared the good news of Jesus Christ and salvation with others?
3. If no, why not. If yes, what was the response?
4. How do you handle stress in your life?
5. How would you handle being in the same situation as Joe or Mary? Explain.



Chapter Eight: The Change

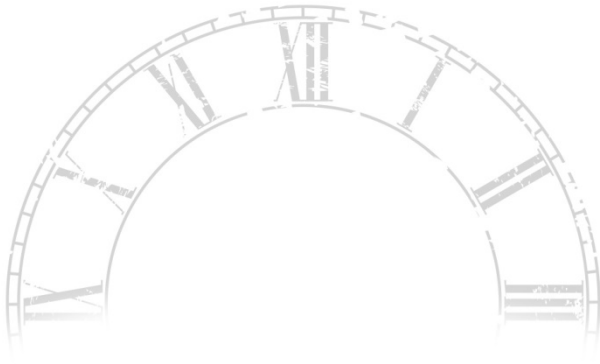
Life turns upside down once again for Mary and Joseph and their Mom. This was not totally unexpected, however they need to regroup.

Questions to Consider:

1. Why are Joseph and Mary called into the principal's office?
2. What does Principal Remington believe about what is happening at his school?
3. Why is safety in question?
4. Explain Joe's belief that everything will be fine.

Digging Deeper

1. Has there been a situation in your life that you had no control over? How did you deal with it?



Chapter Nine: The Joy

Life is not at all what the Sullivan's expected and in this chapter that comes true in an entirely new way.

Questions to Consider:

1. Six months have gone by since the last chapter. Where are Joseph and Mary going with their Mom?
2. Why do they think they might wake up from this real life dream?
3. Who has helped them find a house and arrange details for interviews?
4. Why does Joe consider Mr. Davis a "miracle" in his life?
5. How does Cheyenne Morris begin the interview and how does she end it?
6. The interview was time for something important – what did Joseph say looking directly into the camera?

Digging Deeper:

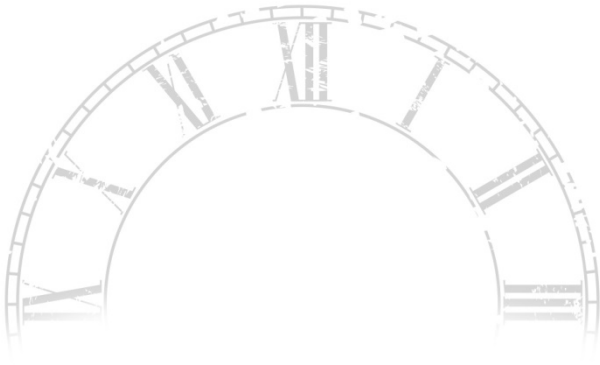
1. Have you ever been out of your comfort zone? In what way has the Lord helped you to find peace?

2. Has anyone been a “lifesaver” in your life? Do you feel that God has sent this person to help you?

3. Have you been in a middle of a problem without a way out? How did you deal with this issue and how can you recognize that in the future?

4. There was a call to action in the chapter that was a call to follow the Lord. When did that happen for you? If it hasn't –there is no time like the present!

5. Joe didn't say anything spectacular –but God can use words to convict the hearts of men if they are open to His Word. Think and pray about this. What does God want to say to you?



Chapter Ten: The Beginning

This chapter culminates the story with some closing thoughts as well as where life is for the family at this time.

Questions to Consider:

1. How much time has gone by? How do you know this?
2. What is the big change in the family's life?
3. Where are the messages being sent, now?
4. Are Mary and Joe still having dreams about heaven?
5. What does the ministry do with the money?
6. How has the life changed for the nation?
7. What did Mary write in her journal?

