

“Lord, I Feel So Small!”

Using God’s Measure
To Conquer Self-Doubt

by Jon Drury

Table of Contents

Original Design of Study Questions

Crafting the Foundation

1. *Lord, I Feel So Small!*
2. Foundations for Significance
3. Yardsticks of True Worth

Feelings That Immobilize Us

4. Transforming Despair into Hope
5. Morphing Fear into Courage
6. Birthing Healing out of Grief

7. Discerning False Guilt and True

The Flesh That Hinders Us

8. Unleashing Power in Frailty
9. Overcoming a Great Weakness
10. Winning the Death-Struggle with Self
11. Exchanging Daily Misery for Joy

Externals That Frustrate Us

12. Solving Life's Puzzles
13. Unlocking Purpose in Suffering
14. Demolishing the Shame of Mockery
15. Salving the Sting of Rejection

Experiences That Hamper Us

16. Converting Failure to True Success
17. Turning Humiliation to Heroism
18. Moving from Isolation to Friendship
19. Conquering Worry with Trust

Rebuilding from Smallness.

20. Emerging into Hope and Confidence

Original Design of the Study Questions

In the original version of “Lord I Feel So Small!” each chapter had ten study questions entitled “Think It Through.” The original publisher suggested the questions be condensed to five. For personal or group study, the following is the original full set of study questions for each chapter.

Chapter 1

Lord I Feel So Small!

Think It Through Questions

1. Why would Greg take his own life?
2. Why do so many struggle with feelings of smallness?
3. What lies about your own significance have you harbored?
4. Plunged in adversity, in what depths of feeling did Elijah find himself?
5. How are these lies about our own place really unbelief in God?
6. In Luke 15:1-7 how does Christ answer, *You're insignificant!?*
7. In Luke 15:8-10 how does Christ's story respond to the statement, *You're worthless!?*
8. In Luke 15:11-32, how does the story of the prodigal address the accusation, *You're unworthy!?*
9. How did Christ's version of the story of the prodigal and his father differ from the one told in Jewish society?
10. How do the lies we tell ourselves cause us to miss our greatness? Who is shortchanged in the process?

Chapter 2

Foundations for Significance

Think It Through Questions:

1. What are the effects of parental comparison?
2. Why do some parents fail to impart the encouragement and nurture needed by a child?
3. On what basis can we say that the family is the foundation for significance?
4. How would you answer those that hold that the classroom, society, or “village” should impart the primary values to a child?
5. What are the most important aspects of the foundation built in the home? What others would you add?
6. If you lacked this foundation, where do you start in rebuilding?
7. In what ways can God be the answer for what was missing?
8. Is it really powerful and significant enough to fill the gap?
9. What are ways you can pass a healthy foundation to others, even if you lacked aspects of it yourself?
10. What aided Judy in finding her true foundation for significance?

Chapter 3

Yardsticks of True Worth

Think It Through Questions

1. Do you secretly say things about yourself you would never say of a newborn?
2. How do we justify evaluating others by wrong measure?
3. How did your family or others affect your evaluation of yourself?
4. What is the danger of destructive self criticism?
5. How did comparison prove disastrous for the ten spies and the people? How is it disastrous for us?
6. How should we measure ourselves?
7. What foundations for true measure are given in 2 Corinthians 10:12-13 and Galatians 6:3-5?
8. If God's approval is our chief measure, how do we start the process of pleasing him?
9. As flawed, sinful human beings, how can we ever receive God's "Well done"?
10. What does Psalm 139 contribute to the perspective of our value before God?

Chapter 4

Transforming Despair Into Hope

Think It Through Questions

1. When have you, like Lloyd, battled despair? What inward conclusions brought you to that place?
2. In daily life, what tends to discourage you and influence you to lose hope?
3. What evidence do you see that some are dominated by despair?
4. Read Ruth 1. Despite Naomi's justifiable sorrow, what -incorrect conclusions does she draw about God?
5. The author found self at the center of his despair, his own dreams and expectations. Why does this focus lead to despair?
6. Though facing impossibilities on the human scene, in what one way should we never give up?
7. What does it mean to place our hope on God?
8. Why are human objects of hope a slam dunk for disappointment?
9. What did the author find was the key to rediscovering hope?
10. When he turned to place his hope on God, what happened. Why?

Chapter 5

Morphing Fear Into Courage

Think It Through Questions

1. Have you ever been immobilized by fear. What did it feel like?
2. Why do we allow ourselves to be paralyzed by fear?
3. Why would a believer have to face fear when intellectually he knows he has all the resources of God?
4. Facing the daily agonies of life, do the promises of Scripture ever seem intangible and unreal? What promises are most difficult for you to implement?
5. Summarize Moses' fears. What is a consistent focus throughout his questions and objections?
6. In contrast, when God answers his objections, where is the focus?
7. How are the Lord's answers the great provision for our own battle with fear?
8. How can fear be turned to courage? How is it possible when all the obstacles and difficulties in life remain?
9. What is the place of obedience in living with courage?
10. What contributed to Mae conquering fear?

Chapter 6

Birthing Healing Out of Grief

Think It Through Questions

1. In addition to the death of a loved one, what other sort of deaths cause grief?
2. How have you seen separation spawn grief?
3. What symptoms of grief have you experienced?
4. What have been the most significant sources of grief for you?
5. Does it seem strange to you that God grieves? What are the sources of God's grief?
6. Why does Christ choose to share our grief and loss?
7. How can others help heal the pain of loss? Why do we sometimes isolate ourselves in pain, instead of seeking the healing of fellowship?
8. Why can our forgiveness form an important segment of healing?
9. What does it mean to share our grief with God?
10. Why is it important for the wounded to extend healing to others?

Chapter 7

Discerning the Voice of Our Enemy

Think It Through Questions

1. When in life have the competing inward voices confused you?
2. Though Satan attacks the believer, how does the case of Job reveal his real purpose?
3. Why does Satan attack when we are battling great adversity?
4. Why did the Lord defend Joshua the High Priest, if he was unworthy?
5. How can Satan use our feelings of unworthiness? Are we unworthy?
6. How was Satan's attack of Jesus in the wilderness similar to the ways he slanders us?
7. How can failure be an opportune platform for Satan's attack?
8. What may the Lord allow if our own glory is at the center of our dreams? Why?
9. What clues help you distinguish the voice of the enemy from the voice of God?
10. When encountering the voice of the enemy, why might it be dangerous to debate the issue instead of resisting it?

Chapter 8

Unleashing Power in Frailty

Think It Through Questions

1. What were the core issues that made Connie feel trapped?
2. When have you felt powerless and immobilized?
3. What areas of frailty did Paul experience according to 1 Corinthians 2:1-3?
4. How are we weak in our mind, emotions and will? How does sin further weaken us in those resources?
5. How could God allow us, or the man born, to be created with areas of inability?
6. In Heb. 11:32-34, in what sense was the weakness of these heroes turned to strength? How could it be strength if some were tortured or were martyred?
7. What evidence is there that God strengthens some? Who does He chose to strengthen?
8. How does He enable us to strengthen ourselves? How does this work in our mind, emotions, and will?
9. How can others strengthen you? How can you strengthen others?
10. How can you continue to strengthen others even in your hour of greatest need, or when others are weakening you in great measure?

Chapter 9

Overcoming a Great Weakness

Think It Through Questions:

1. How does Dennis exemplify weaknesses we all face, and their results?
2. What powerful things lure you to fail?
3. What do you notice about Paul's struggle in Romans 7:15-24.
4. Why may feelings of spiritual defeat go beyond our actual spiritual failures?
5. How is the cross our basis for victory? How can one who has believed on Christ have forgiveness for daily sin?
6. What did the author mean by a "window of escape?" What makes that window smaller?
7. Can we choose right. How does the case of Cain demonstrate that?
8. Why did God allow the thorn to remain in Paul's life?
9. What are some benefits you have received from battling your greatest personal weakness?
10. How have others benefited and God been glorified in your struggle?

Chapter 10

Winning the Death Struggle With Self

Think It Through Questions

1. Though we all battle with sin and the sin nature, why can it be characterized as a rebellion?
2. How does this revolt affect fellowship with God and His freedom to direct your life?
3. Why does disobedience to God change our theology or our view of God?
4. What voices around us tell us we have a right to happiness? If this is our supreme desire, why is it starting at the wrong place?
5. How and when did man receive a bent to his nature?
6. Why is it painful to be searched by the Word and Spirit of God? How did King Asa respond to that searching?
7. How can you escape from continual patterns of rebellion against God?
8. What is the concept of consecration? Why does it pave the way for life and growth?
9. What other powerful tools aid you in setting your direction to serve God?
10. What is God's part in this great transformation of turning sinners to saints?

Chapter 11

Exchanging Daily Misery for Joy

Think It Through Questions:

1. Are you strapped to the roller coaster of circumstances? How has that impacted your life and the lives of those around you?
2. When encountering trials, how do you typically respond?
3. How does the world encourage us to deify our own happiness and pleasure?
4. What was the wakeup call experienced by the author?
5. What is the flaw in living just for our own pleasure?
6. For whose pleasure are we called to live? What does that have to do with our relationship with God?
7. How can your relationship with God be a solace in disappointing human relationships?
8. In what senses did God please us first?
9. What insights on pleasing God were helpful reminders for you?
10. How might your life change if you direct your motives and actions to please God first? Why?

Chapter 12

Solving Life's Puzzles

Think It Through Questions

1. Which of your challenges seem most impossible to solve?
2. Why is changing people more difficult than overcoming external obstacles?
3. In what ways do difficult obstacles affect you?
4. Why does God allow us to face frustrating circumstances?
5. What were some of God's purposes in taking the Jews through the wilderness?
6. In what ways has God equipped us for the frustrations of life?
7. Facing a huge, hungry crowd, how did Christ help the disciples evaluate the human impossibility of the situation? (Mark 6:32-44)
8. What part did the disciples have in the miracle?
9. What was God's part in the miracle?
10. How do these two roles apply to the impossible situations we face?

Chapter 13

Unlocking Purpose in Suffering

Think It Through Questions

1. What have been your most painful experiences of suffering?
2. Do you agree that all suffer? Why or why not? Do all suffer alike?
3. What aspects of Job's suffering do you think were the most distressing?
4. Why do we seek quick, easy answers for why others suffer? What are the dangers in doing so?
5. Why would Paul Tournier say "*Let the deep pain hurt*"?
6. Considering both the human and spiritual realms, what are some causes of suffering?
7. Where should we turn in suffering? What sources of solace have been most helpful to you?
8. What does the author mean by innocent or righteous suffering?
9. In what sense is God the Great Sufferer?
10. What does it mean to give birth in suffering? Why would someone say "Don't waste your pain!"?

Chapter 14

Demolishing the Shame of Mockery

Think It Through Questions

1. When have you been in the place of the mocker? Why did you do it? How did it feel?
2. When have you been mocked? How much of an imprint did it leave on your life?
3. Answer the assertion "Mocking is a victimless crime."
4. In what unique way was Christ wounded by his mockers?
5. How do we justify mocking with our sense of humor?
6. How does God feel about mocking and why?
7. What is mocking at its base?
8. How much damage can it do?
9. How does a person recover from the impact of mocking? What paths of healing have been useful to you?
10. How can the person mocked become the eventual victor?

Chapter 15

Healing the Sting of Rejection

Think It Through Questions

1. In what ways have you experienced rejection? How have you rejected others?
2. Why does rejection cause such distress?
3. Why might rejection by others cause us to reject ourselves?
4. Why might someone be an approval addict? How does our speech reveal this tendency?
5. Evaluate the nature and depth of the rejection Christ experienced.
6. What does it mean that God accepts us?
7. What expressions of God's acceptance are most meaningful to you?
8. Why is grasping our acceptance by God so crucial in overcoming rejection?
9. What other insights have been helpful in healing the sting of rejection you have experienced?
10. Why are those who have experienced rejection powerfully equipped to help heal others?

Chapter 16

Converting Failure to True Success

Think It Through Questions:

1. When have you most significantly experienced feelings of failure?
2. What evidence caused you to conclude you had failed? Was the evidence valid?
3. How do you see success idolized in our culture? What kinds of success are most celebrated?
4. Though we may fail in some earthly tasks, how can we begin to experience the greatest realm of success in God?
5. Why would the author suggest the cross as the greatest example of perceived failure?
6. Though He was God and knew everything beforehand, why was Christ so devastated by aspects of failure in His earthly mission?
7. Why should we not trust feelings of failure alone?
8. What may be some of God's purposes in allowing failure in our lives?
9. What is true success? Evaluate elements of the author's definition. How would your own definition differ?
10. What sort of success will win the Savior's *Well done!* ?

Chapter 17

Turning Humiliation Into Heroism

Think It Through Questions

1. Why might humiliation be an appropriate term to summarize what Steve and his brothers endured?
2. In what experiences of life have you experienced humiliation?
3. What does the author mean by *the switch*? How can humiliation lead us to humility? How does humility differ from human feelings of powerlessness and degradation?
4. What is the value of humility before God? Why would the author say it is a place of power?
5. Why does God allow the contrite and lowly to dwell with Him? Why not the arrogant and powerful?
6. Of what use is this place of influence with God?
7. Years after Esau's murderous threat, how was Jacob humbled on his return to Canaan?
8. What was the core of Jacob's burdened plea to God?
9. Why did God appear as a wrestler? In the wrestling match, what was he revealing to Jacob?
10. How can true humility be a place of power in several ways?

Chapter 18

Moving From Isolation to Friendship

Think It Through

1. What question caused anguish for the author? Why do you think it was painful?
2. Have you ever lived in a relationship vacuum? Why did it happen?
3. Why are some of us more comfortable with things than people?
4. What are the most significant risks or costs for you in building relationships?
5. What contributed to the close relationship built by David and Jonathan?
6. As God incarnate, what might have been some of the unique costs for Jesus in building relationships with the disciples?
7. What were the mutual benefits for Paul and Timothy in their partnership?
8. Are some people just naturally loners? Should they remain that way?
9. Following his discouragement, what did the Lord direct as Elijah returned to the land?
10. For the author, what benefits came from friendship? What is the life-changing power of friendship?

Chapter 19

Conquering Worry with Trust

Think It Through

1. In what situations are you most prone to worry?
2. Why do many of us accept worry as a routine part of life?
3. How can you carry out your responsibilities in life, yet avoid worry?
4. How does answering the question *What is life?* put worry in perspective?
5. Why does God determine to provide?
6. In what sense does worry subtract?
7. What is the significance of God knowing our needs? Does it correspond to our own perceptions?
8. In what way does worry reject God and His kingdom?
9. How does worry redirect your needed mental resources?
10. Why would God not provide a need?

Chapter 20

Emerging Into Hope and Confidence

Think It Through

1. What results when you forget “. . . what God did yesterday.”?
2. What would be the benefit of recording ways you see God at work? What would you record?
3. What mentors have influenced you? How are you a different person because of their influence?
4. What books have you found to be life-changing? Why were they effective?
5. What is some need the Lord diagnosed and treated in your own life?
6. How significant is the tool of prayer in the life of a believer—in your life?
7. What might be wrong if we idolize the gifts of others, and demean our own?
8. What are spiritual gifts? What are some reasons God gives them?
9. What is the importance of identifying your own gifts? If you have done that, what assisted you in the process?
10. If life is a marathon, what have been some of the most trying parts of the race for you? What is the goal of it all?