

**Growing Deeper**  
**Guaranteed**

**Week Four: *I Will Provide What You Really Need***  
**Luke 12:22-34**

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. Who's the biggest worrier in your family? Who tries to make sure every possible contingency is covered so that no one is blindsided? Is it you?
2. Are you in a season of blessing or struggle just now? Are things looking up or is the forecast still a bit gloomy?
3. Read Luke 12:22-24. God makes an argument from lesser to greater... if He cares about lesser things don't you think He cares about greater things? What would be a similar comparison for you?
4. When God tells you not to worry, does that mean you don't have to make an effort or work? What's the difference?
5. Read Proverbs 6:6-11. How does God feel about those who refuse to make an effort?
6. Read Paul's instructions in 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. What two reasons does Paul give for Christians to be industrious?
7. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for a greater trust in God to bless your efforts to provide.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

8. How do you feel about the current welfare system in America? Is it too lenient or not as generous as it should be?
9. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10. During the Great Depression, the government established the WPA so people could find work to earn enough for life's essentials. Do you think requiring work or drug testing is demoralizing for those needing assistance? What exceptions should be made?
10. How do you help someone without discouraging personal effort?
11. Have you ever been in a situation when you needed government assistance or help from family or friends? What did you learn from that experience?

12. In the Old Testament, Jewish people could loan money for interest to gentiles but could not charge interest (called usury) to fellow Jews? Should you loan money to family or just give money if it is needed? What do you think?
13. A problem developed when Jews would chose to loan money to gentiles rather than help their fellow Jews because it was not profitable. What does that tell you about human nature?
14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to have a more gracious and generous heart towards family, friends and strangers.

**Spend FIFTEEN: Day Three**

15. Read Luke 12:22-34. What practical reason does the Lord give for refusing to worry in verses 25-26?
16. Believers and nonbelievers both have immediate practical needs. What should be noticeably different about their attitudes?
17. Why should faith in Jesus as your Savior make any difference regarding practical matters in life? (See Hebrews 4:15-16 for insight.)
18. Jesus talks about awareness of nature in Luke 12:22-34. How can observation of sunsets, sunrises, spider webs, the beauty of autumn, the movement of wildlife help in your daily sense of God's provision?
19. How would you rate your awareness of the ebb and flow in your daily life?
20. Read Mark 6:31. How often do you retreat to a quiet place? When you take time off, do you retreat to a quiet place?
21. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for greater awareness for calm in your life.

**Spend FIFTEEN: Day Four**

22. Read Luke 12:29-32. When it comes to priorities what does the Lord say should be our greatest concern?
23. Why does the Lord say immediate concerns shouldn't weigh heavily on the hearts of believers?
24. What does Jesus say we should be concerned about in verse 30? What does that entail?

25. Look at Matthew 6:9-13. Consider the Lord's Prayer, Jesus' suggestion about things that should occupy our concern. How many of those petitions are about daily needs? According to the Lord's Prayer, what other things should occupy our attention?
26. Why is it so hard to maintain God's perspective when facing the reality of daily life?
27. What's the difference between worrying and giving proper attention to the details of life? Is the phrase "This too will pass" helpful or irresponsible?
28. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to maintain a healthy balance between a proper work ethic and attention to Godly priorities.

**Spend FIFTEEN: Day Five**

29. Read Luke 12:33-34. Is God against Christians owning earthly possessions?
30. Hyperbole is the use of exaggeration for effect. What is God really saying in these verses? What is the difference between being a manager of God's possession and considering everything you worked for yours to do whatever you want? How well do you walk that line?
31. How do you "lay up treasure in heaven"? What does that mean?
32. Look again at Luke 12:34. What follows your treasure?
33. Isn't that backwards? Shouldn't it say, "Where your heart is, your treasure will follow"? Explain God's meaning.
34. Describe a situation or person where you invested significant amounts of treasure: money, time and emotional investment. How did that affect your feelings?
35. Do you set aside a portion of your income and resources to serve the Lord in your life? If so, how does that affect how you feel about the work being done? Does your investment grow or reduce your interest in the results?
36. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray that your life's values would reflect the Lord's priorities.