

Growing Deeper
The LEGO® Conundrum

Week One: *The Conundrum*
Matthew 22:34-40

1. Let's start with a fun thought experiment: what is the absolute worst sin a person could commit? Murder? Rape? Genocide? What reasoning do you have behind your pick for the most evil thing a person can do?
2. Now turn to Exodus 20 and read verses 1-17. What famous list is given in this passage?
3. Scan the commandments you find there. Was the "worst sin" you chose covered by one of the commandments? Which one?
4. Rabbis in Jesus' time used to debate which commandment (they had over 600!) was the most important. Looking only at these ten, which commandment would you say is the most important? Why?
5. Martin Luther considered the first commandment (you shall have no other gods) to be the most important. Did your "worst sin" break the first commandment? Should the sin you listed break the first commandment, or is Martin Luther wrong?
6. By this measure, the sin of "worrying" would be the worst sin you could commit — worse than murder! — because it would show a lack of trust in God. Have you ever worried about your life? Do you feel like your worrying is a worse thing than something like stealing? Why or why not?
7. We'll unpack this more tomorrow, but for now, close your FIFTEEN by asking God to dwell in your heart and remove all of your fear and worry — because you can trust in his care and concern for your life.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two

8. As some of us saw yesterday, understanding the commandments can get tricky. As proof, count how many command statements there are in Exodus 20:3-17. How many do you find? (I'll give you a hint: the answer isn't ten!)
9. This has led to disagreement even in our day about how to number the Ten Commandments. But the complexity of God's law has been bothering people for a long time. Read the story in Matthew 22:34-40. What was the primary question being debated?
10. What was Jesus' answer about the most important commandment?

11. Look again at Exodus 20:3-17. Do any of the commandments say anything about us "loving" anybody?
12. In that case, how accurate is Jesus' summary? What point is he making?
13. Is one commandment — "love" — easier or harder to follow than ten commandments (Sabbath, honoring parents, no idolatry, blasphemy, adultery, murder, stealing, lying, or coveting)? Why do you feel that way?
14. End your FIFTEEN by praying for God to help you embrace his radical command of "love" above all other good things in life.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

15. What are some ways you naturally show love to the people in your life?
16. Why do you think these are good and beneficial things to do for them?
17. But now think about God. If God doesn't need any good and beneficial things from us, what does it actually look like to "love" God?
18. God does give us a list of the things we can do to show our love to him. Read Exodus 20:1-11. What does he ask us to do?
19. Why do you think these things matter? What benefit is there to not making idols, not misusing God's name, or remembering the Sabbath? And who actually benefits: us or God? (See verse 6.)
20. Even the commandment to "love God" is ultimately for our own good, not his. What is one way you can focus on right now to start emphasizing a love for God in your own life?
21. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer. Thank God for his love for you, and ask him to help you develop a closeness with him in return. Remind yourself that it is for your own well-being.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

22. Can "love" for another person ever be coerced? In other words, is it possible to "force" someone to love another person in a friendly, parental, or romantic way? Why or why not?

23. Now skim Luke 10:25-37. What is Jesus ultimately telling this expert in the law to do?
24. Is being told "to love everybody as your neighbor" the same thing as forcing us to love someone else? What makes this command difficult to follow?
25. Now look at Exodus 20:12-17. Do these commands for "loving our neighbor" focus on a person's feelings or on a person's actions?
26. Maybe it's impossible to force loving feelings, but actions can certainly be dictated. Which of these commandment "actions" do you struggle to avoid the most?
27. The thing you identified is called an "area for growth." What step could you take this week to grow in this area?
28. Pray and ask God to help you live out his love for all the "neighbors" in your life!

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

29. If someone you know is hurting for any reason, what is the most loving thing you could think of to do for them?
30. Jesus wasn't the only person to say "love" is the most important commandment. Check out what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13. What are the three things that last forever?
31. The love Paul is describing is pretty radical! How easy is it to "keep no record of being wronged" (v.5)?
32. Now I invite you to contemplate a challenging story. Read the opening case study about Tammy and Sara in this Christian magazine article: <https://relevantmagazine.com/god/worldview/unexpected-problem-grace>
33. Was what Tammy did a "loving" act? Why or why not?
34. Do you feel that Tammy's choice to pay for Sara's drugs is acceptable within God's moral law? Why or why not?
35. Close your FIFTEEN by leaning into the tension of Tammy's act. God let himself be killed for the sake of loving us. What painful acts could we be willing to consider for the sake of loving others?

Week Two: *The Problem with Mind Reading*
James 4:2-4

Spend FIFTEEN - Day One

1. Read James 4:2-4. When you consider the conflicts in most of your relationships, what percentage of them would you say were caused by the fact that the other person “should know you better than *that* by now”?
2. When you think about your disappointments with God, what percentage of them are because he knows your desires, yet he does not seem to provide them?
3. What reason does God give us in verse 2 for why we may not have all of our wants met?
4. Think about a specific example of something that is typically understood as your “job.” Maybe you are the lawn maintenance person, the dishwasher, or the dog walker? How does it feel when someone asks *if* you are going to do that job? Does it make your job more or less bearable when you are appreciated when you do your task?
5. It’s funny how the tone of a posed question has so much to say about our reaction to it, especially if it is something we already feel the responsibility to perform. “Will you wash the dishes?” is vastly different than “Oh, you’re going to wash the dishes?” Keeping this in mind, what tone of expectation do you usually take with God while praying? Do you assume that some things are just his job, or do you humbly ask him for what you need?
6. Read Romans 8:31-32. How would your prayer life be different if you took the posture of making humble requests of God, demonstrating that after all he has provided you, he does not owe you more?
7. James 4:2 seems such an obvious answer to why we don’t have what we ask. God desires to give good things to his children, but not to their detriment. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Confess those times when you have complained about unmet need but failed to humbly ask God for it in the first place.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two

1. Read James 4:2-4. These verses are the answer to the question posed in verse 1. What was the question?
2. What internal desires do you have that cause conflict in your relationships?
3. Did your answer come to you quickly, or did you have to think about it? Explain your answer.
4. Is it easy or difficult for you to share your inner desires? Are you the kind of person who typically puts your cards on the table, or are those close to you regularly caught off guard by your reactions?

5. Describe a time when you were caught off guard by the reaction of someone with whom you are in a relationship. How did that feel to be surprised by their thoughts?
6. When you think about that particular disagreement, what part did each party's assumptions play in your disagreement?
7. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to help open your mind to the part you play in your relationships this week so that you are able to look at them more objectively.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

8. Read Matthew 6:7-13. What do verses 7-8 say about God's understanding about our needs?
9. If God knows our needs, why does he want us to voice them to him?
10. Yesterday we looked at how we feel when someone takes us and our role for granted. In what ways do you sometimes take God and his provision for you for granted?
11. What about the opposite? How does it feel when someone anticipates your needs and provides a fulfillment of that need in some way?
12. Read Matthew 7:9-11. Describe a time when God gave you an unexpected gift. How did that feel?
13. Our relationship with God is an interesting dynamic. He is the only one who actually knows all of our needs without us asking, yet he wants to hear from us anyway. Why do you think he wants this? (Hint: think of a parent-child relationship.)
14. Close your FIFTEEN thanking God for providing for you, even when you have taken him for granted.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

15. Modern marriage has evolved from a social contract that provided social and economic stability and the procreation of children to the be-all, end-all of relationships, often referred to as a soul mate. Do you think this has been a good thing or bad thing for marriages? Explain your answer.
16. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. The instructions for Christian households are pretty plain — husbands and wives are to put each other first. What does verse 21 give as motivation to do this?

17. Looking again at Ephesians 5:21-33, you may notice that mind reading is not listed as part of serving your spouse in love, yet so often this is the standard by which we judge another's love for us. Describe a specific example that you have seen or have been a part of.
18. How might any relationship benefit by letting go of the lofty notion?
19. Read Proverbs 13:12. How is the fulfillment of needs described in these verses?
20. If unfulfilled longings can make you heartsick, wouldn't it be better to ask for what you need instead of hoping another can guess your needs? Why or why not?
21. Intense dissatisfaction comes from putting demands on a relationship; it's not intended to bear. If you struggle with this kind of expectation in your marriage or other relationships, end your FIFTEEN by committing those hurt feelings to God. Ask him to help you let go of unrealistic expectations.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

22. Yesterday we looked at the unrealistic expectation of demanding the people in our lives should be able to read our minds and anticipate our needs. What other expectations do we unfairly put on relationships?
23. Look again at James 4:2-4. What is the reason in verse 2 that we do not get what we ask for from God?
24. Since we have established earlier this week that the relationships in our lives cannot be expected to read our minds, what other reasons could there be for why we don't get what we want from our earthly relationships? (See Proverbs 18:1-2 for insight.)
25. In light of the pitfalls of the behaviors in Proverbs 18:1-2, what behaviors can we do to improve our relationships with each other? Take a few minutes to brainstorm a list.
26. Read Proverbs 16:24. How can we use words to help us get the things we need from others?
27. End your final FIFTEEN this week by committing to improving your relationships by letting go of unrealistic expectations and asking God to help make them fuller and more meaningful.

Week Three: *The Cost of Doing Business*
Colossians 3:12-14

Spend FIFTEEN - Day One

1. What are the most important relationships you have?
2. Estimate how much time, in a day or a week, that you spend investing in those priority relationships.
3. Now read Colossians 3:1-4. Paul is describing our relationship with whom?
4. Now, estimate how much time you spend investing in your relationship with Jesus. How does it compare to your other estimates?
5. What do you think it means, practically, to "die to this life" (v.3)?
6. What are real, tangible ways you could "set your sights on the realities of heaven" (v.1)?
7. As you end your FIFTEEN, ask God to pour into his relationship with you through the power of his Holy Spirit. Ask him to fan into flame your connection to him as you move through this week.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two

8. The first part of Colossians 3 is about growing our relationship with Christ. If relationships are like a lawn or garden, think about this: what kinds of things do you need to do to your lawn to get it to grow well?
9. But lawns and gardens are also plagued by weeds. What kinds of things do you need to do to protect your lawn from weeds?
10. Now read Colossians 3:1-9. Just as you have to ruthlessly kill the weeds to protect your lawn, what kinds of things do you need to "put to death" in yourself to protect your relationship with Jesus Christ and others?
11. What is one of these sinful things that doesn't trouble you much — that's already been put to death? What is one that you struggle to truly kill off?
12. Compare the sins grouped together in verse 5 with the sins listed in verses 8-9. What difference do you see between these two groupings?

13. Warren Wiersbe calls the first group the "sensual sins" and the second group the "social sins," or the sins in good standing! He means that Christians consider the former disreputable, but the latter ones aren't so bad. Do you agree with this assessment, and do you think the Bible is treating the second group as less bad?
14. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer: Jesus, when you rose from the dead, you left your old grave clothes behind. Now help me to "take off" these grave clothes that keep me trapped in my old, dying life, so that I may embrace the resurrected living that you now offer me!

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

15. Picture, if you will, a Chicago Cubs fan who moved to Saint Louis. He promises to have allegiance to his new city's team and cheer only for them. But he continues to wear his Cubs gear in his daily life, and even wears it when he attends a Cardinals game! How seriously would you take his supposed transition?
16. Paul uses a similar clothing metaphor to discuss our new allegiance to Jesus Christ. Read Colossians 3:10-11. What new thing are we supposed to "put on"?
17. How does Paul say we learn about this new nature?
18. What helps you to "know Christ" better?
19. Try to imagine what your life would look like if you weren't a follower of Christ. What things in your life are different because you're wearing a new nature given to you by Jesus?
20. How do the people around you see the face of Jesus Christ because of your actions?
21. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to help you display the transformation he has brought to your life.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

22. When you were little, your parents bought and chose your clothes for you. At what age did you start buying and choosing your own clothes?
23. Interestingly, God our Father never stops picking out our clothes for us. Read Colossians 3:12. What clothes does God want us to wear?
24. Let's spend some time looking through God's closet, shall we? Go to this link:
<https://www.stepbible.org/?q=version=ESV|reference=Col.3.12&options=VNHUG> . Notice how it lists the different

articles of clothing listed in Colossians 3:12. Click on the different words to see the full definition of each of them. Are there any full definitions of these words that you didn't expect?

25. Now pick one of these virtues and click it. On the right side, a link will appear: "Search for this word" with its number of appearances. Click this link, and see all the different instances where this word is used in the New Testament. What different ways is it translated, depending on the context? How does that add to the meaning?
26. Pick one of the other verses you've found that uses that word from Col. 3:12. Write it down somewhere accessible and use it as a prayer prompt this week.
27. As you conclude your FIFTEEN, pray for God to help you "wear" this virtue proudly this week. Ask that it will help you show Christ to the people around you.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

28. Forgiveness is an especially difficult virtue. And it's certainly easier said than done. What's the most difficult thing you've ever had to forgive someone for?
29. Read Colossians 3:12-14. Who does Paul say we're supposed to forgive?
30. What if the person hasn't apologized? Does repentance need to precede forgiveness?
31. Larry Nassar was recently convicted of sexually assaulting over 100 young girls. Here is an excerpt from the statement of one of his victims, Rachael Denhollander:

“You have become a man ruled by selfish and perverted desires. You chose to pursue your wickedness no matter what it cost others....In losing the ability to call evil what it is without mitigation, without minimization, you have lost the ability to define and enjoy love and goodness. You have fashioned for yourself a prison that is far, far worse than any I could ever put you in, and I pity you for that...

The Bible [speaks of] a final judgment where all of God’s wrath and eternal terror is poured out on men like you. Should you ever reach the point of truly facing what you have done, the guilt will be crushing. And that is what makes the gospel of Christ so sweet. Because it extends grace and hope and mercy where none should be found. And it will be there for you. I pray you experience the soul-crushing weight of guilt, so you may someday experience true repentance and true forgiveness from God, which you need far more than forgiveness from me — though I extend that to you as well.”

Whose forgiveness did Denhollander encourage Nassar to seek?
32. Look again at Colossians 3:13. What is the motivating force behind our forgiveness of all others, no matter who they are, what they've done, or whether they've repented?
33. How important would you have to think God's forgiveness of you was in order to forgive someone like Nassar?

34. Close your FIFTEEN by thanking God for his forgiveness and asking him for the strength and comfort to help you forgive others who also need it.

Week Four: *The Rules of Engagement*

Galatians 6:1-5

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Have you ever watched one of those intervention reality shows on TV? They can be some of the most gut-wrenching displays of emotion, and judging by the popularity of these shows, America has a pretty good appetite for watching others go through the process of helping their loved ones recognize their destructive behaviors. What reasons might people have for tuning in to shows like this? Do they appeal to you?
2. Read Galatians 6:1-5. Write in your own words the command in verse 1.
3. Read Romans 3:23. Who has sinned and fallen short of God's ideals?
4. How is the person that needs to be restored described in verse 1?
5. Read Galatians 4:6. Who has received the Holy Spirit?
6. In verse 1, Paul, the author, exhorts Christians to help restore those caught in sin. From what we read in scripture and what we see in our own lives, we know that we all sin. What does it mean to be caught in sin? Describe what that looks like in a person's life.
7. As you finish your FIFTEEN, ask God to continue to fill you with his spirit so that you are ready to help others when they are in need.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Have you ever felt like God was calling you to step into the life of someone else who was struggling with a sin or any other destructive behavior? Did that feel weighty and heavy, like meddling, or something else?
9. Look again at Galatians 6:1. How does this verse say we are to restore that person? What else are we to be mindful of?
10. Can you think of any real life examples where a well-meaning person tried to help someone with their struggle with sin in a way that was not gentle? What was the result?
11. What does it look like to restore someone gently? In other words, what qualities should you exhibit? (See Colossians 3:12-13 for insight.)

12. In what ways can a person fall into temptation when helping another?
13. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to help you display the qualities needed to help restore those who are struggling, and to give you the strength not to fall into temptation.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

14. Look again at Galatians 6:1-5. According to verse 2, what does carrying someone's burden accomplish?
15. What is the law of Christ? (See Mark 12:30-31 for insight.)
16. In this series, we've been looking at the tensions that make or break relationships. One of them is this: in life, we long for a sense of control and autonomy, but relationships only thrive when there is mutual dependency and vulnerability. How does helping each other carry our burdens accomplish this?
17. How does the pull for control and autonomy make it harder to step in and help carry other's burdens?
18. What does focusing on the needs of others help us to avoid?
19. What does focusing on the needs of others give us?
20. Finish your FIFTEEN by thinking about a relationship in your life where God may be calling you to step in and help him or her carry his or her burden. Ask God for the courage to help you live out his law by loving your neighbor as yourself.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

21. Yesterday, we talked about the need for dependency and vulnerability to make relationships thrive in spite of our longing for autonomy and control. What happens to relationships when the balance of these two pulls becomes out of balance? In other words, when a relationship is characterized by only control or dependency?
22. Read Galatians 6:1-5. What does verse 4 say we should do?
23. Read Romans 12:3. What does it look like for you to test your actions? For instance, do you have a friend that can hold you accountable or be honest with you?

24. To whom do you typically compare yourself? What is typically the result when you compare yourself to others?
25. It is so helpful to have someone to help give you perspective about yourself and your relationships. At St. John, we call this Being someONE to another person in an intentional relationship, which is defined as “Life transformation happens best when we are in relationship with others. Whether one-on-one mentoring relationships, small groups, or any other form of intentional, committed, Christian community, life is meant to be shared. We are also called to form genuine relationships with people who don’t know Jesus as savior. *John 13:34–35*.” How does having someone speak intentionally into your life help you with your other relationships?
26. To finish your FIFTEEN for today, consider if you have an intentional relationship that speaks into your life. Or in the reverse, who are you speaking into? If you can’t think of anyone, ask God in prayer to help you identify who those people could be.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

27. When you think about the primary relationships in your life, how would you assess your level of power? Are you comfortable with the status quo?
28. What happens to relationships when they are characterized by an imbalance of power?
29. Jesus doesn’t bash power, but instead talks about a radically different relationship with power...power used for the good of the other. Read Matthew 20:25-28. What would happen in your relationships if you used the power you have to serve the other?
30. Look at verse 28. Does it make it easier to lay down your power for the sake of another knowing that Jesus did it for you? Why or why not?
31. Look again at our scripture for this week, Galatians 6:5. What was the author Paul’s final exhortation of this passage in verse 5?
32. Read Philippians 2:5-9. It is easy for us to compare our load to others and assume that our load is greater. But if we compare ourselves to Jesus, we see someone who laid down the ultimate power to serve others in love. Finish your final FIFTEEN of the week with this verse as your prayer.

Week Five: *The Commitment Trap*
Proverbs 17:17

Spend FIFTEEN - Day One

1. As you begin your first FIFTEEN for the week, think about a friend, maybe even your best friend. What thoughts come to mind when you think of that person?
2. Most often, any deep, meaningful relationship has gone through some stuff. It could be adversity between two people or adversity one person has faced and the other supported them through it. Most meaningful relationships require commitment of some kind. Overall, how would you describe the relationship in question #1? Has it been smooth? Rocky? Some of both? Explain.
3. Read Proverbs 17:17: "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." Does the friend you've been thinking of fit this description? Why or why not?
4. How has this friend supported you through tough times you've faced?
5. Often, our best, closest friends are the ones who have endured the most with us. As you finish your FIFTEEN for today, thank God for the friends he has put in your life and pray that he would give you the strength and the power to be the kind of friend those around you need.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two

6. To begin your FIFTEEN for today, read Proverbs 17:17 again. Think about what that looks like, specifically in your life with you and your closest friend or friends.
7. Today let's begin taking a look at the story of the friendship of Ruth and Naomi, found in the book of Ruth. When you have time, it would be helpful to read the entire book of Ruth. It's only four chapters. But this week we'll focus primarily on chapter 1. Naomi and her family were Jews living in Israel, but a famine there forced them to move to a nearby country called Moab. What do verses 3-5 say? What happened to Naomi's husband and sons? (Notice verse 4 says that Naomi's sons both married foreign women. We'll come back to that later.)
8. In addition to losing her family, Naomi had no one to provide for her. In Jewish culture, if a widow had no family, she was cared for by the community. But was Naomi in a Jewish culture anymore? In Moab, where she was now, it didn't work that way. What typically happens for widows today?
9. Just like Naomi needed someone to be her friend through both thick and thin, there are certainly people in your life who need close, committed friendships. Think about someone you know who currently needs a friend like that. What could you do to help fill that gap?
10. To finish your FIFTEEN for today, ask God to help you see those close to you or in your "sphere" who need a friend

to stick with them through “thick or thin.” Also, ask God to help you find and establish those committed, lifelong relationships that we all need.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

11. To start your FIFTEEN for today, read all of Ruth chapter 1, especially if you didn’t yesterday. In Ruth 1:10, as Naomi was preparing to leave, what did Naomi’s two daughters-in-law say to her?
12. When Naomi told her two daughters-in-law what she was planning to do, they wanted to go with her. But how does she respond in verse 11?
13. Even though these three women weren’t from the same background and didn’t come from the same place, they obviously loved each other. Describe an example from your life where you’ve seen a similar relationship.
14. Naomi isn’t the only one who suffered hardship in this story. Her two daughters-in-law, named Orpah and Ruth, suffered hardship as well. How easy do you think it would have been for the three of them to go their separate ways after their husbands had all died?
15. Unfortunately, we’ve all had relationships that fell apart when something bad happened or when things got tough. Looking back, what was it, specifically, that led to that relationship falling apart? How committed were you to one another?
16. As you finish your FIFTEEN for today, pray that God would give you the boldness and the power to embrace commitment, rather than running from it. Ask him to help you embrace the relationships he is leading you to truly commit to.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

17. Once again, read Proverbs 17:17 and Ruth 1. (It’s always good to spend time reading the same text again as new parts will stick out to you each time.) In verse 14, Orpah, one of Naomi’s daughters-in-law, left Naomi and went back to her home country. But what did Ruth do?
18. Do you think we can really blame Orpah for leaving? It was completely understandable and Naomi told her she could leave several times. What would you have done if you were in her shoes?
19. Verse 14 says that Ruth “clung to her,” even after Naomi tried talking her out of it. What do you think made Ruth so committed to Naomi?
20. Committing to someone can be downright scary. In fact, commitment often means saying no to all the other good options out there. But our fear of commitment, especially outside of marriage, means we find ourselves bouncing

from relationship to relationship. Do you think God created us to be this way? Why or why not?

21. It's not exactly the same because they were husband and wife, but God created Adam and Eve to be together in a committed relationship. Look at Genesis 2:18. What did God say about man being alone? Is it good or bad?
22. As you finish your FIFTEEN for today, think about this: "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" Again, this isn't just speaking to romantic relationships. God created us to be in community, to be in committed relationships. To close today, pray as you feel led.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

23. Look at what Ruth says in Ruth 1:16-17. Not only was Ruth committed to Naomi, she was committing to Naomi's God, the one true God, as well. What do you think gave her the courage and confidence to do this?
24. Verse 22 says, "So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning." Not only did Ruth say she was committing to Naomi, but she actually did it. In our culture and world today, it seems so easy for "friends" to say one thing and then do another. How can you tell that Ruth truly meant what she said?
25. Throughout the week, you've likely been thinking of people close to you or in your "sphere" who need a friend to stick with them through "thick or thin." This sounds great in theory, but we can't all have hundreds of close friends. What can you do when you see someone in need of a close, committed friendship, but you don't feel like you can provide that? If we're being honest, we know we can't have close, committed relationships with everyone. So what else can you do?
26. We all seem to know lots of people, even if we're not close friends with them. Do you think one option would be to help connect those in need with each other? Why or why not?
27. Read Proverbs 17:17 one more time. Spend some significant time this weekend thinking about what that means. Think about how you can better be a true friend, a brother or sister, for someone who needs you right now, through thick and thin, in their time of adversity.
28. As you finish your last FIFTEEN of the week, spend some time thanking God for what he has revealed or brought to light for you this week. Ask him to help you not just respond with nice, holy-sounding words, but actually follow it up with action as you live to better serve others in his name.