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# SO MUCH MORE

*Experiencing the Abundance of God*

FOLLOW-UP DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE STARTED: \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLISHED BY YM360

*So Much More: Experiencing the Abundance of God*  
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**[20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,**

**[21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

*- Ephesians 3:20-21*



Getting Started

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# GETTING STARTED

If you're reading this, the chances are good that sometime recently, you spent a few days going through *So Much More* with your youth group. Maybe you did this during a Disciple Now, a retreat, or at camp. Wherever you started your journey with *So Much More*, this book will help you continue it.

If we're honest, we can be guilty of getting so caught up with what's happening on the screen in our hands that it captures all our attention. We allow our lives to only be as big as the next most pressing decision. Our routines hold us captive. The problem is that this is a pretty shallow way to look at our life and our faith.

As humans, we can become nearsighted and forget that there is a God who is eternal. We get stuck in our routines and lose sight of God's plan for us and the world. It's too easy for us to miss the "way-more-than-we-could-possibly-imagine" future God has for us.

*So Much More* is all about showing you that it doesn't have to be this way. In this book, you're going to take a deeper look at the concepts in *So Much More*. Look at the next page to see how this book works.

# HOW THIS BOOK WORKS

*Here are a few things you need to know to put this book to good use.*

## **Start With This Advice**

Whether you're super-committed and read your Bible each day or struggle to read a few verses a couple of times a week, the key to sticking with this through four weeks is commitment. Your routine may change, but your commitment to meet God each day has to be there. Tell yourself that whether or not you read this journal at the same time each day, or if you read it whenever you get a few extra minutes, you'll make it a priority in your daily life.

## **Have Your Bible Open**

Resist the urge to ignore the spots where this book will tell you to read a passage of Scripture. The close relationship with God that you want only happens by reading and doing what's in the Bible. Have it open as you go through this book.

## **Each Week Is Structured the Same, But Is Different**

Each week's content works in similar ways. But each day is different. And there are a lot of different kinds of activities. Some will take 3-5 minutes, some 10-15. Some will ask you to look at two or three passages of Scripture; some will ask you to think about a concept. The variety will make it easier to stick with and help you learn in different ways that are suited to you.

## **What If I Miss A Day of Reading? Or Three?**

Don't give up! Take this at your pace! The goal is for you to grow closer to God. If you miss a day or two (or four), don't throw in the towel. Pick this book back up and start where you left off. You can do this! And by doing it, you'll show the world that God makes an incredible difference in the lives of His followers. So, hang in there! You've got this!

**Well, that's what you need to know to get started!  
Turn the page to read the introduction to Week 1.**



# Week 1 Intro

*Before you start Week 1, read this short intro.*

There is so much more to God than we could possibly imagine. That is the theme of *So Much More* and the theme of this first week.

## **God is more.**

That's an interesting statement, isn't it? God is more. Period. He is simply **MORE**.

God is more. He is more than us. More than any other. More than we can imagine. More than we could ever expect. He is more. And this thought should make us full of wonder and comfort.

Because God is more, He alone is worthy of our love and devotion.

You will spend the first few days of this journal reviewing the themes you covered in *So Much More*. And you'll re-discover that God is more wonderful, more powerful, and more loving than any of us can ever comprehend.

Are you ready to jump in?  
Turn the page, and let's get started.





**Read the passage below and answer the questions on the next page.**

Begin this day's devotion by reading Ephesians 3:20-21. It's printed below, but if you have a Bible handy, consider reading it there.

## **Ephesians 3:20-21**

**[20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

Paul had a close relationship with the church in Ephesus. He had essentially started the church on his second missionary journey and kept a close friendship with them. This particular passage comes at the end of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians. He had prayed that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit and that they would understand the love God had for them.

Look back at how Paul described God in verse 20. The phrase "far more abundantly" is a powerful one. God can do abundantly more than we expect. That's pretty awesome. Abundant means overflowing. Abundant means more than we can hold or carry or grasp. But that's not what Paul said. Paul said God can do FAR MORE abundantly. That's like "abundant times abundant"! That's how awesome God is. He isn't just capable of more than we can expect or imagine; He's capable of SO MUCH MORE.

# Questions to Consider

1. Paul wrote that God is “able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.” Be honest with yourself: what limitations do you put on God?

2. Think of a time recently when you had a need but weren’t confident in God’s ability to meet it. Why do you think we have this tendency?

3. Paul makes a really wild statement. He says that God can accomplish all these things according to the “power that is at work within us.” Paul is talking about the Holy Spirit. How does it make you feel knowing you have the power of God inside you? How does this change your expectations of what God can do in and through you?

4. In verse 21, what does Paul say should be the result of God doing such great things in us and the world? What role do you play in giving God glory?

# week ONE

## day TWO

*Who is God to you? This is the question today's devotional will challenge you with.*

### Who is God to you?

If you recall the first day of *So Much More*, you got to see who God was to David. Take a moment and read 1 Chronicles 29:10-13. Remember, this is David praying aloud in front of his people. In his prayer, we see who God was to David.

Write down some of the words David used to describe God:

It is very clear from David's description of God that David knew God. David could say these things about God because He had experienced God in this way. Everything David said about God was true. They were characteristics that described God. David wasn't making stuff up. He was accurately describing God in a way that was true and right.

David essentially says that God is greater than anyone or anything in existence. God backs this up in His own words through the prophet Isaiah. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. How does God describe Himself in this passage? Write down your answer in the space below:



# You're going to get the chance to do what David did. You're going to take some time to describe who God is to you and why.

In the space below, write a description of God in the left-hand column and explain why you know this to be true based on an experience you've had with God. Then, when you're done, spend some time praying to God, thanking Him for His greatness and majesty.

WHO GOD IS	HOW I KNOW



# WEEK ONE DAY THREE

*Read the following quote and respond to it on the next page.*

One of the concepts you covered in *So Much More* is the so-much-more of God's love. God loves us more than we could possibly imagine. The depth of His love is so vast that we can't conceive of it. God's love for us changes everything about who we are. Read the quote below and take a few minutes to reflect on what it means to you.

**“Trust God’s love. His perfect love. Don’t fear he will discover your past. He already has. Don’t fear disappointing him in the future. He can show you the chapter in which you will. With perfect knowledge of the past and perfect vision of the future, he loves you perfectly in spite of both.”**

*- Max Lucado*

# Questions to Consider

1. What do you think it means to “trust” God’s love?
2. How is God’s perfect love different from the love people have?
3. How does it make you feel that God loves you despite knowing everything about your past and future?
4. Spend some time in prayer and thanksgiving to God for His perfect, unfailing, so-much-more-than-you-can-imagine love.



# WEEK 1

## DAY 4

One of the truths you discovered in *So Much More* is that God's vision for your life is so much greater than you can anticipate. But it doesn't stop there. Not only does God have a plan for you, but He is also present with you as you go. This is a powerful truth that should fill you with hope.

When we consider the "so much more" of God, it can be overwhelming in a good way. But sometimes, we consider our own lives, and we are left somewhat underwhelmed. We look around us and ask, "Is this it? Is this all God has for me"? The wonderful news is that God's so much more doesn't just stop with Him. God has a vision for our lives that is WAY more than we can comprehend. His great desire is to use us, His people, to change the world for His sake.

The best news of all? He goes with us. He doesn't wind us up and set us free. He goes before us and prepares a way, then walks with us down the path He has directed. This is a POWERFUL message for you that will challenge and equip you to lean into what God has in store for you.

But just because God goes with us, it doesn't mean we won't be scared or uneasy about where we're headed. God addresses this in Isaiah 41:10.



Fear not, for I am with you; be not  
dismayed, for I am your God;  
**I will strengthen you,**  
I will help you, I will uphold you with  
my righteous right hand.  
- Isaiah 41:10

**Read that verse at the top of the page. Read it again if you need to.**

Here's a question: Where in your life do you need strength?

Describe how you've gone to God to seek His strength in this area.

What basis does God give for you not being afraid?

What does God promise to do?

**Spend a few minutes in prayer, seeking God's strength and  
comfort for the things in your life that cause you to be afraid.  
Trust that He is big enough to handle these.**

# Week One, Day 5

*Read the prompt below and spend some time journaling your thoughts on the next page.*

Read John 14:15-17.

**[15] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”**

If you have been saved by faith in the work and person of Jesus, you have been given an incredible source of strength and power. You have been given the Holy Spirit to literally live inside of you. God Himself is with you all the time, giving you the strength to face everything life throws at you.

This truth reshapes how you see yourself, your life, the world around you, your future, etc. In short, it changes everything.

On the next page, spend some time writing down how this truth impacts your life. Think about how you feel God’s presence each day. Think about what it means for you that God is always with you and that you are never alone. Think about your potential to impact the world around you just because God’s Spirit is always with you. Write down your thoughts and spend some time in prayer.

A series of 15 horizontal green lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a template for text entry. The lines are uniform in color and thickness, and are set against a white background. The lines are positioned at regular intervals, creating a grid-like structure for writing.