

July - September 2022

DIGGING  
**QUARTER 2**  
DEEPER



## ***Students,***

It is my sincere desire that you (and I) would love God and love his Word. These two are inseparable. You cannot love God while ignoring his special revelation to us. I pray that as you flip through the following pages with a heart to learn, God's Word opened, and a pen in hand, a love for God and other people will be cultivated in your life as his transforming grace daily evidences itself.

The Digging Deeper guide placed before you is just that – a guide. There is nothing inherently special or even powerful about the layout and questions which follow. On the other hand, the Scripture texts provided for reading each day are, in fact, fundamentally life-altering.

Digging Deeper 2022 provides a broad overview of a specific theme in systematic or biblical theology each week. But don't be frightened by words like "systematic" or "theology"! Theology simply means the "study of God," and the goal of study in a systematic and biblical fashion is to learn about God as he revealed himself to us. As we humbly open the text, ask questions of the text, and prayerfully consider what the text means and how the text applies to our lives, my prayer is that God's overwhelming glory and beauty would be on full display as the Holy Spirit works through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Felten', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

**Joel Felten**

### **Online Bible Commentary Recommendations:**

[blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org); [biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com); & [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)

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**Day 1 – Ephesians 1:1-4**

Who receives God's special blessing according to verse 3?

How so?

Christians, non-Christians,  
or all people?

According to verse 4, when did God choose us? Why is this point in time significant?

Why do you think Paul says we are chosen "in Christ" as opposed to just saying that we are "chosen"?

What does it mean to be "holy" & "blameless"? What could this practically look like in your life?

**Day 2 – John 15:1-17**

How many times is the word “abide” used in this passage?

What does it mean to “abide”?

What happens to those who aren’t abiding in the vine?

see verses 5-6

What is the connection between abiding in the vine and bearing fruit? How is this similar to abiding in Jesus’ love and keeping his commandments?

What are some practical examples of “bearing fruit”?

### ***Day 3 – Colossians 1:24-27***

What is the mystery Paul is referring to in the passage?

see Col 2:2-3

Who is the mystery revealed to? Why is it revealed to these people?

According to verse 27, what is the hope of glory?

In your own words, describe what it means be “in Christ” or to have “Christ in you.”

### ***Day 5 – Question 27 of the New City Catechism*** *Read Romans 5:17*

**Question:** Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

**Answer:** No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith.

## **Day 4 – II Timothy 1:7-10**

Why did God call and save “us” (Christians)?

What have we been given “in Christ Jesus”? How does this gift relate to “our own works”?

see verses 9-10

According to verse 10, what did Jesus Christ do?

How do these truths influence the way you live your life as a Christian?

repeat the Q&A  
three times

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?

**Day 1 – John 1:9-13**

Who is the true light? What is the significance of the true light coming into the world?

Who is given the right to become a child of God?

Practically, what does it mean to be a child of your parents?

How does someone become a child in a family they were not born into?



***Day 2 – Ephesians 1:4-6***

Define adoption in your own words. What does it mean to be adopted into a family?

By what means have we (Christians) been adopted into the family of God?

For what purpose have we been adopted?

What is the result of our adoption?

### **Day 3 – Ephesians 1:11-14**

What is an inheritance?

What is the inheritance we're promised as an adopted child of God?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in our inheritance?

see verse 14

When will we acquire possession of our inheritance?

### **Day 5 – Question 28 of the New City Catechism**

*Read John 3:16-18, 36*

**Question:** What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?

**Answer:** They will be cast out from the presence of God into hell to be justly punished forever.

## **Day 4 – Galatians 3:23 - 4:7**

What does it mean that we were “held captive” or “imprisoned” under the law?

How does our adoption as sons and daughters of God change our identity?

What is the difference between being under a guardian and being the child of a Father?

How did Jesus facilitate our transfer from being held captive, imprisoned, and under a guardian to children of God and heirs?

**repeat the Q&A  
three times**

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?

**Day 1 – Colossians 1:13-14**

What is the domain of darkness? Who has delivered us from this domain?

What does “redemption” mean?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

Why do we need to be redeemed?

In whom do we have redemption? How?

**Day 2 – Ephesians 1:7-10**

What was the price of our redemption?

Why is it significant that we are forgiven “according to the riches of his grace”? How rich is God’s grace?

What does it mean that God “lavishes” grace upon us?

According to verse 10, what is God’s “plan for the fullness of time”?

### **Day 3 – Romans 3:23-26**

What does it mean to justify or to be justified?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

Why do you need to be justified?

What is the difference between a wage and a gift? Why is it good news that God gives us his grace as a gift?

We are justified before God through our redemption in Jesus Christ. How can you share this good news with those in your sphere of influence?

### **Day 5 – Question 29 of the New City Catechism** *Read Ephesians 2:8-9*

**Question:** How can we be saved?

**Answer:** Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross.

## ***Day 4 – Romans 6:3-11***

What does it mean that we are united with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection?

How is Christ's resurrection from the dead proof of his defeat over sin?

What does this mean for us since we have been united with Christ in his resurrection?

What are we to do now that we have been redeemed and freed from sin?

**repeat the Q&A  
three times**

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?

***Day 1 – Deuteronomy 18:15-22***

According to verse 18, what is the role of a prophet?

How did Moses fulfill this role?

According to verse 19, what is the role of the people when a prophet is speaking?

What is the punishment for the prophet who speaks in the name of God something God did not command them to speak? Why is the punishment so severe?

What is the evidence of a true prophet?



**Day 2 – 1 Kings 18:20-40**

How many prophets of Baal are present in this narrative?

How many prophets of the Lord are present in this narrative?

What are some of the actions taken by the prophets of Baal in order to get an answer from their god? How successful were their attempts?

Why did God have Elijah go to such extremes in this narrative?

see verse 36

What is the evidence that the prophets of Baal are false prophets? What is the evidence that Elijah is a true prophet of God?

### ***Day 3 – Acts 3:17-26***

What is the significance of Jesus fulfilling the words spoken by Old Testament prophets?

In what ways does Jesus fulfill the office of prophet?

How is Jesus different from Moses? How is he different from every other prophet in the OT?

Because Jesus is, in fact, the Word of God (more than a prophet!), how does this give you confidence in the words and actions of Jesus?

### ***Day 5 – Question 30 of the New City Catechism*** *Read Galatians 2:20*

**Question:** What is faith in Jesus Christ?

**Answer:** Receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

## ***Day 4 – Revelation 19:11-21***

How does Jesus' triumphant return reinforce his role as a true prophet?

remember back to the evidence of a true prophet in Deuteronomy 18

How is Jesus being the Word of God different from merely "speaking the words of God"?

According to verse 20, what is the false prophet guilty of having done?

How is the false prophet punished? In what way does this fulfill the promise God made in Deuteronomy 18:20?

**repeat the Q&A  
three times**

**What comfort does this provide?**

**What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?**

***Day 1 – Genesis 2:5-17 & 3:22-24***

Describe the garden of Eden. What made the garden so special?

Why was death the punishment for eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

If God promised death upon eating the fruit, why didn't Adam and Eve immediately die? What kind of death was promised here?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

What is the significance of Adam and Eve being banished from the garden?

**Day 2 – II Chronicles 36:14-21**

What brought about the wrath of the Lord toward Israel?

In what way was God compassionate toward the people before exiling them to Babylon?

What is the significance of the temple being burned, Jerusalem being destroyed, and the Israelites being banished from the land?

How is Israel's rebellion similar to our sin? In what ways has God been compassionate with you in calling you to repentance?

take this opportunity to repent  
of sins in your life

### ***Day 3 – Ephesians 2:12-16***

Why is mankind separated (banished) from relationship with God?

What does it mean to be hostile toward someone?

What does it mean to be at peace with someone?

Because of Jesus, believers are no longer enemies of God. Write down a prayer of thanksgiving to God for sending his Son to restore his relationship with you.

### ***Day 5 – Question 31 of the New City Catechism*** *Read Jude 1-3*

**Question:** What do we believe by true faith?

**Answer:** We believe in God the Father Almighty; we believe in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; and we believe in the Holy Spirit.

## **Day 4 – Revelation 21:1-4 & 22:1-3**

How/where in these passages do you see Christians being brought back into the garden?

How/where in these passages do you see Christians being brought back into Jerusalem?

How/where in these passages do you see Christians being brought back into relationship with God?

In what ways are you encouraged by the bringing back of God's people from exile? How does this give you hope?

**repeat the Q&A  
three times**

**What comfort does this provide?**

**What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?**

**Day 1 – Acts 1:8**

Where does the book of Acts fall in redemptive history?

How does it relate to Jesus?

Who is speaking in verse 8? Who is he speaking to?

see verses 1-7

Describe the importance of the connection between the Holy Spirit's power and being witnesses of Jesus?

Since Jesus is speaking from Jerusalem in verse 8, what is significant about the progression in locations mentioned?

if needed, look at a Bible map of Israel



**Day 2 – 1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

Who is the author of this letter to the Corinthian church?  
What do you know about him?

Paraphrase in your own words what is being said  
in these five verses.

The Trinity is mentioned here – list and describe what each part  
of the Godhead contributes to these five verses.

Godhead = God,  
Jesus, & Spirit

What is one of the purposes the Spirit's power offers  
to believers?

see verse 5

### **Day 3 – 1 Corinthians 12:1-31**

What is the general theme or big idea of this chapter?

What metaphor does Paul liken to spiritual gifts? How does this help to further explain spiritual gifts?

If individual believers are individual parts of the body, what collective group of Christians make up “the whole body”?

see Ephesians 4

According to this chapter, what role does the Holy Spirit play in building up Christians (individual) and the church (collective)?

### **Day 5 – Question 32 of the New City Catechism**

*Read 1 Peter 1:1-2*

**Question:** What do justification and sanctification mean?

**Answer:** Justification means our declared righteousness before God. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness.

## **Day 4 – Galatians 5:16-24**

What is the Spirit contrasted against in these verses?

List the “works of the flesh” and the “fruit of the Spirit.”

Pick out two specific traits from both lists (four total)  
– give practical examples of what it would look like to display those traits

Summarize in two or three sentences what you learned about the Holy Spirit this week.

repeat the Q&A  
three times

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?

**Day 1 – Isaiah 57:15**

Who is the speaker in this verse?

focus on the first  
half of the verse

Paraphrase in your own words what is being said in the second half of the verse.

What does the word “revive” mean?

What’s the significance of being “contrite” and “lowly of spirit”?  
How does this relate to God’s “reviving”?

**Day 2 – John 3:1-8**

Who are the main actors in these verses?

Describe each of them.

What is the cause of Nicodemus's confusion?

What spiritual insight does Jesus compare to being born?

What's the significance of being "born again"?

read the rest  
of the chapter  
for context

### **Day 3 – 1 Peter 1:22-25**

What's the key word (or idea) in verse 22?

According to verse 23, what causes the shift from "perishable seed" to "imperishable seed"?

What comfort should verse 25 provide for believers who have been born again?

How can you practically express your gratitude to God today for these promises?

### **Day 5 – Question 33 of the New City Catechism** *Read Galatians 2:16*

**Question:** Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else?

**Answer:** No, everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ.

## **Day 4 – Titus 3:1-7**

According to the first half of verse 5, what was not the cause of God saving us?

According to the second half verse 5, what was the cause of God saving us?

Describe God's character traits and actions

your list should include at least 5-6

Summarize in two or three sentences what you learned about God's work in your life this week.

repeat the Q&A three times

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?

**Day 1 – Genesis 2:1-3**

What has God just accomplished by the time we arrive at Genesis 2?

Summarize God’s work in creation.

see Genesis 1

What is the significance of God’s example of six days of work and one day of rest?

What’s the significance of God “blessing” the seventh day and “making it holy

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary



**Day 2 – Exodus 20:8-11; Joshua 21:43-45**

Summarize what is happening in Exodus 20.

Summarize God's command concerning the Sabbath day in these verses.

Summarize what is happening in Joshua 21.

skim chapters  
18-21 for context

What did Israel's rest prove about God's character?

### ***Day 3 – Hebrews 3:7-4:13***

According to the author of Hebrews, did Israel truly enter rest in the Old Testament? Why or why not?

What foundational example of rest does the author rely upon in 4:1-5?

According to verses 9-10, for whom does God's rest remain?

According to verses 9-13, what is the basis of the people of God entering God's rest?

### ***Day 5 – Question 34 of the New City Catechism*** *Read 1 Peter 2:9-12*

**Question:** Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

**Answer:** Yes, so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

## **Day 4 – Revelation 21:1-4**

List everything that will be “new” according to these verses.

What’s the significance of God dwelling with his people here?

How do no more tears, pain, or death contribute to complete rest?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

Summarize in two or three sentences what you learned about the concept of God’s rest this week.

repeat the Q&A  
three times

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?

**Day 1 – Genesis 15:1-6**

Describe and define the covenant between the Lord and Abram here.

What does it mean for someone to be an "heir"?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

Paraphrase in your own words what is happening in verse 6.

Why is verse 6 so significant? What does it show us about Abram? What does it teach us about God?

**Day 2 – Romans 4:13-25**

What similar words, phrases, ideas are mentioned in these verses that were also mentioned in Genesis 15?

What is the connection between the words “promise” and “faith” in these verses?

How does verse 21 define Abraham’s faith?

According to verses 24-25, who else is impacted by Abraham’s story? What role does Jesus play in this story?

### **Day 3 – 1 John 1:8-10**

Skim all of chapter 1 for context, what is John's big idea in this chapter?

What two character traits of God are mentioned in verse 9?  
Define both of these words in your own words.

What does it mean to "confess our sins"?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

How does sin and our confession of sin fit within this big idea?

### **Day 5 – Question 35 of the New City Catechism** *Read Titus 3:4-6*

**Question:** Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

**Answer:** From the Holy Spirit.

## **Day 4 – II Corinthians 7:8-10**

What word is mentioned seven times in these three verses?  
What does this word mean?

What can and should godly grief produce?

What does it mean to repent of something?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

Summarize in two or three sentences what you learned about  
faith and repentance this week.

repeat the Q&A  
three times

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism  
and verse(s)?

**Day 1 – Psalm 103:11-12**

Who wrote this Psalm? What do we know about this author?

the good and bad

What do these verses tell us about God?

What does God do with our “transgressions”?  
What does this mean?

What should be our rightful response to God removing our sins?

skim entire chapter  
for context



**Day 2 – Romans 3:21-26**

According to verses 21-22, what is the manifestation (or fulfillment) of the righteousness of God?

According to verse 24, what is the means by which anyone is justified?

According to verse 25, what is to be received by faith?

According to verse 26, who is the “just and the justifier”?

### **Day 3 – Romans 8:1-4**

What are some repeated words or ideas in these verses?

What role does Jesus Christ play in these verses? What are some of his actions?

What does it mean that there is “no condemnation” for those in Christ Jesus?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

What is the expected result of being set free in Christ?

see verse 4

### **Day 5 – Question 36 of the New City Catechism** *Read John 14:16-17*

**Question:** What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

**Answer:** That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son.

## **Day 4 – II Corinthians 5:20-21**

What is an ambassador? What is he or she supposed to do?

What does it mean to be “reconciled”?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

As verse 21 describes justification, what does Christ receive from us? What do we receive from him?

Summarize in two or three sentences what you learned about justification this week.

repeat the Q&A  
three times

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?

***Day 1 – Exodus 19:1-9, 35-37***

Paraphrase in your own words the process of consecrating priests of Israel.

Who is chosen to become the priest(s) of Israel in this chapter?

What is the significance of “anointing with oil”?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible dictionary

Specifically looking at verse 37, what word is used to describe this process of consecrating priests? What does this mean?

***Day 2 – 1 Kings 19:16-21***

Paraphrase in your own words what God commands Elijah to do in these verses.

Who is chosen to succeed Elijah as prophet in Israel in this chapter?

What is the significance of Elijah anointing Elisha and “casting his cloak upon him”?

Specifically looking at verse 21, what is the purpose of Elisha offering a sacrifice to God?

### ***Day 3 – 1 Samuel 16:1-13***

Paraphrase in your own words the way in which God walks Samuel through anointing Israel's next king.

Who is chosen to become the next king over Israel in this chapter?

What is the significance of Samuel anointing David with oil and the Spirit rushing upon him?

Specifically looking at verse 5, what is the purpose of Samuel's sacrifice to God?

### ***Day 5 – Question 37 of the New City Catechism*** *Read Ephesians 6:17-18*

**Question:** How does the Holy Spirit help us?

**Answer:** The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.

## **Day 4 – John 4:7-26**

Paraphrase in your own words what's happening in this chapter.

What reason brings Jesus and the Samaritan woman together?  
What does Jesus offer the woman?

As the woman considers Jesus' invitation, what title does she mention from the Old Testament?

see verse 25

Summarize in two or three sentences what you learned about how Jesus as Messiah fulfills the roles of prophet, priest, and king.

**repeat the Q&A  
three times**

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?

***Day 1 – Isaiah 7:14; 9:6***

What sign does the prophet Isaiah promise concerning the coming Messiah?

What is the significance of the name “Immanuel”?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible dictionary

List the names/titles mentioned in Isaiah 9:6.

Pick two of the above names/titles and dig a bit deeper – what do these names tell us about Jesus?



***Day 2 – Luke 2:1-21***

Paraphrase in your own words the scene surrounding Jesus' birth in these 21 verses.

What's important about Luke's description of Jesus' lineage in verse 4?

What is significant about the angels' announcement to the shepherds in verses 10-11?

Why is it significant that Jesus was born as a human baby (100% truly God & 100% truly man)?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible dictionary

### ***Day 3 – John 1:14-18***

Who is John talking about when he mentions “the Word” in verse 14?

Why is it significant that this Word “became flesh and dwelt among us”?

According to these verses, what came about through Jesus Christ?

According to these verses, what is one of the purposes of Jesus’ relationship with God the Father?

### ***Day 5 – Question 38 of the New City Catechism***

*Read Psalm 62:8*

**Question:** What is prayer?

**Answer:** Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in praise, petition, confession of sin, and thanksgiving.

## ***Day 4 – Revelation 19:11-16***

Who is sitting on the white horse? What titles are given to him throughout these six verses?

What do these verses describe Jesus as doing in the last days?

What does Christ's victory mean for unbelievers? What does his victory mean for Christians?

Summarize in two or three sentences what you learned about the incarnation this week.

**repeat the Q&A  
three times**

**What comfort does this provide?**

**What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?**

**Day 1 – Joshua 1:7-9**

Who commissions Joshua in these verses?

List out some of God's promises and instructions in these verses.

What is Joshua told to do with "this Book of Law"?

According to verse 9, what should be Joshua's posture in leading the people of Israel under God's rule?

**Day 2 – Psalm 1:1-2**

What does the word “blessed” mean here?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

What is the progression of words used for the person not following after God?

What are some of the activities used to describe the person following after God?

What are three practical ways you can “delight in the law of the Lord” and “meditate on his law” this week?

### **Day 3 – Romans 6:1-4**

Skim Romans 5:12-21 for context, what does Paul tell Christians happens with their sins?

Now in these verses, how does Paul describe sin's relationship to believers?

What does it mean that believers have been "baptized into Christ Jesus" and "into his death"?

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

What does it mean that believers are to walk "in newness of life"? What does this practically look like for you?

### **Day 5 – Question 39 of the New City Catechism** *Read Philippians 4:6*

**Question:** With what attitude should we pray?

**Answer:** With love, perseverance, and gratefulness.

## **Day 4 – Colossians 3:1-4**

What is the basis for Paul’s claim of the “new self” in these verses?

see verse 1

Explain verse 2 in your own words.

Describe how our future hope of glory should affect our life now.

if needed,  
use an online  
Bible commentary

Summarize in two or three sentences what you learned about sanctification this week.

repeat the Q&A  
three times

What comfort does this provide?

What can we thank God for based on this catechism and verse(s)?



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Union with Christ: Election

Union with Christ: Adoption

Union with Christ: Redemption

Prophet

Exile

The Holy Spirit

Conversion: Regeneration

Rest

Conversion: Faith & Repentance

Conversion: Justification

Messiah

Incarnation

Conversion: Sanctification

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