

MARY DeMUTH

**AROUND the WORD**  
**in 60 SECONDS**

*the ultimate tween devotional*

**Shine**

Around the Word  
in 60 Seconds







MARY DeMUTH

in partnership with iShine Ministries

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# Introduction

ARE YOU READY for your life to be changed? I can't guarantee the words in this devotional have superpowers, but I do know this: Jesus is in the business of radically changing lives. Getting to know Him is an adventure, and this book is a road map for that adventure. Think of it as your daily journey with Jesus over the next fifty-two weeks.

Here's how to use the map. Every week, read the first entry. Usually this will be on a Monday as you start your school week (or summer week!). On that day you'll be given an activity to accomplish during that seven-day period. This will take more than sixty seconds, but it will be well worth your time. You'll also find a prayer you can use that day to get you started, but please stay connected to Jesus throughout the week!

The sixty-second commitment comes during the rest of the week. You'll have five verses to read and respond to, four for the rest of the week, and a fifth for the weekend. How you respond to the verses is up to you. Of course, you can write out your answer to the question following the verse, but you may want to be more original—sketch something, write a prayer or a poem, make a collage, or take a photo and paste it in the space provided. Use whatever creative process



inspires you the most. You might find your one-minute time slot stretching longer because you're having so much fun interacting with the verses.

While the stories in this book are fictional, many of the details are adapted from my life and the lives of the kids I disciple. In that sense, they are real. You might even see yourself in the situations described. I firmly believe that you can better understand the Bible when a story is wrapped around it. That's why Jesus told so many stories, and it's why when we hear a sermon at church, we often remember the stories the longest.

Remember, you bring yourself to this book. How you grow and change and come closer to Jesus depends on your willingness to let the verses and stories and prayers sink deep into your heart. Being a Jesus-follower isn't about doing a bunch of good things so others will think you're a Christian. It's not about playacting and pretending. It's about your heart.

Great things flow from a changed, renewed heart. And Jesus loves-loves-loves to scrub you clean, set you free, and get you on your feet beside Him.

I'm so excited you're taking this personal journey. I'm thrilled that your life with Jesus may be completely changed and renewed because of it. I'm excited not only about what could happen to you, but also about all the lives you will touch because of your spiritual growth.

As the journey begins, would you pray with me right now?

*Dear Jesus, I want my heart changed from the inside out. I want this book to change me. Help me to see it as a road map toward the adventure of knowing You. Use the stories to teach me. I pray that the verses will change me. And may the prayers be true to me and my relationship with You. Help me to live for You. I love You and I trust You. Amen.*

Mary DeMuth



## WEEK ONE Grumbling

### ★ DAY 1

*“Build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God’s love.” Jude 1:20-21*

FOR WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, Tia boasted that she’d make a great eighth-grade class president and set out to prove it. During the campaign, every one of Tia’s opponents gave speeches about the crowded hallways, the cafeteria food, and the need for vending machines. But Tia had a different approach. At an assembly for the candidates, she stood at the podium with two of the meanest boys in school on either side of her and yelled into the microphone, “Stand up!” Her two henchmen gestured wildly with their arms. One



by one, everyone got to their feet. Tia shook her fist, then told the audience to clap. They did. Tia looked over the crowd. “Now that’s power,” she yelled. “If you want a powerful president, vote for me.”

The class elected Tia, but she didn’t make a great president. She wanted only the power and prestige of the office; she had no intention of serving the students. She complained and grumbled, but did nothing to fix any of the problems. She favored thugs and lost the respect of her classmates.

The Tias in the world—bullies who brag and get what they want by pretending to be your friend—are selfish and whiny. But as a follower of Jesus, you can choose to live differently. How? Read the second part of the Scripture passage above:

- *Build up others.* Take time to encourage a friend. Look beyond your own problems for the day and try to shoulder a friend’s stress.
- *Pray in the power of the Holy Spirit.* How do you do that? Tell God your worries and fears. Ask Him to help you with the problems in your life and in the lives of your friends.
- *Await God’s mercy.* Think about Jesus’ act of extreme mercy when He gave His life on the cross. He died in your place. He left His position of power and majesty in heaven to come to this crazy earth and die for you and the Tias of this world. That’s a big reason to thank Him!

Do you see what happens when you do all of these things? Jude concludes with these hopeful words: “In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God’s love.” Sometimes we think

being safe means acting like Tia—pushing people to do what we want, getting our own way so we're happy. But being safe is resting in God's love and letting Him be the powerful one.



## Take Action

Take a few minutes to think of someone in your life right now (friend, parent, brother, sister, relative) who could use some encouragement. Send that person a message via texting, Facebook, e-mail, or voice mail, or handwrite a note and drop it in the mail.



## Connect with Jesus

*Jesus, I don't want to be like Tia, manipulating people to get my way or using power to hurt others. Help me encourage my hurting friends. Teach me to pray all day long so I feel close to You, even at school. And would You show me this week that You love me in a very specific me-shaped way? Thank You, Jesus. Amen.*

## Around the Word This Week

Each day this week, read a verse and respond to it however you want. Think about it. Write it down on an index card that you can carry with you. Journal about it. Share it with a friend. Pray that the verse will impact you and you will obey it. It's your choice. To get you started thinking about how the Scripture relates to your life, consider the question that follows it.

### DAY 2

*“Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.”* Philippians 2:14-15

Who do you know who complains? Why do you think the person does that?



 **DAY 3**

*“These people are grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want.”* Jude 1:16

When was the last time you bragged about something to get attention?



★ DAY 4

*“Don’t grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!”*

James 5:9

What is the silliest complaint about someone that you’ve ever made or heard someone else say?

★ DAY 5

*“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” Colossians 3:13-15*

Who do you need to forgive right now? Why?



## Over the Weekend

*“You are my God, and I will praise you! You are my God, and I will exalt you! Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.”* Psalm 118:28-29

How has God shown His faithful love to you this week?