

Study Guide for

Little Foxes That Spoil the Vines

by **W. Barry Miller**

Preface

As soon as *Little Foxes That Spoil the Vines* became available, readers began reporting how this little book seemed to speak to them in their particular situations. Its clear, no-nonsense manner addresses key issues that confront people each day. Because of this enthusiastic response from readers, I have prepared this *Study Guide* to expand on issues raised in the book and to provide further encouragement to readers. May God give us hunting success as we find and get rid of the "little foxes" that may be robbing us of abundant life here on earth and keeping us out of the kingdom of heaven.

—*W. Barry Miller*

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Little Sins

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:19)

Many people are careful about breaking large commandments and committing grave sins, yet without scruple they may keep doing wrong things they consider to be "little." They would not tell a direct lie, but their speech is full of little falsehoods. They would not take money from another, and yet they commit small thefts. For example, the grocer by mistake gives them a penny too much change, and they do not think of returning it. If a postage stamp on a letter is left uncanceled, and they take it off and use it a second time.

These people would not start a campaign to ruin a neighbor's character, and yet they repeat evil whispers about that neighbor, and thus soil his reputation. They would not swear or curse in the coarse way of the street, but they continually use such words as "Gracious!" "Goodness!" "Mercy!" and other substitutes for profane oaths. They would not do flagrant acts of wickedness to disgrace themselves, but their lives are honeycombed with little expressions of meanness, impurity, selfishness, and bad temper.

Little sins mar the character and start to drag one out of the kingdom of heaven. They are

sure to grow. Often they bring heavy consequences. The little crack in the lute widens, and after a while it destroys all the music. The trickling leak in the dike becomes a torrent, flooding vast plains. We ought never to indulge in the smallest faults or evil habits, but always aim at perfect love to others and obedience to God. Such wholeness of life is made up of trifles that still are important.

Why Should Anyone Worry About Small Sins?

Because any sin torments.

"There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked." (Isaiah 48:22)

Because any sin separates us from God.

Your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

Because any sin enslaves us.

Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. (John 8:34)

Because any sin ends in death.

For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Because any sin excludes from heaven.

Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites, thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God.

(1 Corinthians 6:9)

1. Fox Hunting with the King

Read Luke 9:10-17.

Little Things Mean a Lot

Give an example of an event or deed that might show the meaning of these words.
This chapter suggests that we should guard against common mistakes.
Can you identify two such common mistakes?

The Sermon on the Mount

In the Sermon on the Mount, the King searched for the little foxes (Matthew 5—7.) The people he addressed were concerned about the big foxes. The King was hunting for the little foxes that destroy the vines.

What kinds of things were the people upset about?

What kinds of things were of concern to the King?

The Law of Greatness

Jesus' law of greatness magnifies little things.

Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. (Mark 10: 43-44)

Identify Old Testament examples where humble service or little things were important.

Identify New Testament examples where humble service or little things were important.

The Power of the Seed

Catch us the foxes, the little foxes, telling us that seeds we sow will not bear much fruit.
Give an example of a situation when a single person influenced the course of history.
Give an example of a personal experience when you believe you were able to be a direct influence in changing the course of an event or in influencing an individual.

There Are No Little People in the Kingdom of God

What each of us does is important in the eyes of God. It is important because we are

important. We are made in the image of God.

Can you relate to someone who may feel that in fact they are small or insignificant in the eyes of God?

Can you recall a time when people or circumstances resulted in you personally feeling inadequate, unworthy, or substandard?

The Little Things

**Let us dig our furrow in the fields of the commonplace.
(J. Henri Fabre)**

A teacher wrote a letter to his prospective fourth-grade students, asking them each to collect a box of souvenirs and mementos that would help recall events of the summer. He planned to have the students report on their activities as they got to know each other in September.

Since the school was in a prosperous town outside of Boston, the teacher expected to hear about some spectacular summer odysseys. One girl went white-water rafting in Wyoming and horseback riding in Montana. Several boys spent weeks at various sports camps perfecting backstrokes, bunting, dribbles, and checking. One boy told about his trip to Australia, another about his amazing adventures in the jungles of Borneo.

Each report was delivered in detail, clear and well organized, with photographs, airline ticket stubs, and souvenirs. The teacher was pleased to hear the wealth of experience enjoyed by his privileged students.

He was completely taken by surprise when he heard from one boy. Leroy was involved in a special program that allowed children from urban areas to attend classes in well-to-do suburban communities. Leroy would ride 45 minutes on a school bus every morning, coming from a poor neighborhood in Boston, 20 miles away. He lived with his mother and grandfather in a three-room apartment, and shared a small bedroom with his two sisters.

Leroy was excited when his turn came to share his summer adventures. He seemed unfazed by having to follow Hannah's three-day rafting trip, where they were served gourmet dinners at the campsites each night. He strode to the front of the room with loping strides. Leroy turned to face the class, grinning broadly, and spoke with pride and enthusiasm unmatched by his adventurous classmates.

"This summer my mom got me a new pair of sneakers." He went on to describe the deal his mom got from "Nick the Greek" and his excitement in taking them home. The teacher invited him to stand up on the desk for all to see. Leroy didn't hesitate. The sneakers were black, his favorite color, with white trim; a brand the teacher never heard of. He towered above his

classmates on top of the desk, almost within reach of the ceiling.

"I got them in the middle of the summer, but I couldn't wear them until the first day of school."

"Wasn't that hard?" someone asked.

"Yeah, that was hard all right. Sometimes at night I'd sneak over and take them out of the box." His face shone with excitement. "I loved to smell them. If my mom went to sleep before me, I'd put them on in my room. I could hardly stand it."

The teacher and Leroy's classmates believed him. He spoke with more passion about those shoes than Peter in describing strange bats in Borneo. At that moment, anyone in the class would have traded their summer adventure for one secret sniff of Leroy's shoes.

Some teachers still ask students to report on their summer adventures. Isn't it good that some students are so appreciative of the basic things of life? The happiest people are those who find their pleasures in simple things.

What other examples might there be of some simple things or little things in life that provide enjoyment and pleasure?

The Little Guy

He didn't have much of a chance. He was smaller than the rest of them, and when they chose up sides for anything, he was either left out or received as the "leftover." He had the uncanny ability to sleep on his hair the wrong way so it seemed never looked good. And as hard as he tried, he could never rid his face of teenage blemishes. The girls teased each other about him as if he were the "booby prize" for the least lucky.

When anything went wrong in the classroom, the finger of suspicion pointed to him. After all, what better (or worse) person could one pick? He seemed to have the least number of allies.

What people didn't seem to realize was that the little guy hurt just like others, felt like others, hoped like others. But unlike most others, he was never treated that way. The gang thought it good sport to make him the unlucky recipient of jokes or pranks. Others received valentines; he got the empty envelopes. Others begged one another to share a locker. But not the little guy. He just went on trying to keep from quitting, hoping that someday the tide would turn and his place in the sun would appear.

I suspect that you and I might know one or two such people, waiting to be picked as a friend, waiting for their names to be called—waiting to be invited.

Often in a schoolroom or youth group, there is a small "inner circle" of popular children, the

"in" group. There may be one or two loners, with whom nobody wants to play. And then there is the large middle group, neither popular nor unpopular. Whenever children in the outer circle want to move in from the outside, they are rebuffed time and again. They feel rejected, their self-esteem suffers, and they remember these school years as ones of bitter unhappiness.

Needless to say, teachers and youth leaders influence how children are accepted within their classroom or group and are most effective in bringing about positive changes. It is essential that leaders work hard to develop feelings of self-worth and self-confidence among young people.

Can you relate to this description of *The Little Guy*? Do you know *The Little Guy*?

What can you do to help make things better for such an individual?

2. In Search of the Gray Fox

Read James 3:1-13.

All of James' comments are as applicable today as the day he wrote them. These particular verses need to be emphasized in evangelical churches. Many on the rolls of Bible-preaching and Bible-believing churches would not think of committing sins of murder, stealing, adultery, or drunkenness. But they do not hesitate in using their tongues to assassinate the character their fellow Christians.

Someone has said that great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, and small minds discuss people.

What a difference there would be, even in evangelical churches, if people would put into practice the teachings of James 3:1-13.

How can we control our tongues so that we dispense blessings? We could begin by refusing to listen the next time someone tries to talk in a derogatory manner about another believer. Don't be contaminated with this type of ungodly conversation.

"But," you ask, "what if there is some truth to the comment? What then?"

Judged by a Different Standard

Did you know that teachers and preachers will be judged by a stricter standard? They will,

and some should be quite apprehensive.

In the Judaism of Jesus' day, the most respected person was the religious teacher. He was called *Rabbi*, "My great one." Everywhere he went, he was given great respect.

The people believed that a man's duty to his rabbi exceeded his duty to his parents: his parents were able to provide physical life, but through the rabbi one received spiritual life. They said that if a man's parents and his rabbi were captured by an enemy, it was the man's duty to ransom the rabbi first. If both were in need of physical provisions, it was his responsibility to care for the rabbi first.

As you ponder this example from history, where would your pastor fit in? Some lead because they love the praise of the crowd. As a result, some teachers did not live by what they taught (Matthew 23:2; Romans 2:17-19).

Certain people tried to teach before they knew anything themselves (1 Timothy 1:6-7). Some false teachers cared nothing for sound doctrine but taught what they thought the people wanted to hear (2 Timothy 4:3).

James wasn't only talking about teachers. Today this advice is appropriate for pastors, evangelists, professors, denominational workers, and Sunday school teachers.

If any have direct responsibility for teaching by word of mouth the basic truth of the Scriptures, they must be sure that they are called of God to the position. These "teachers" will be judged on the basis of what they have taught, what they said in the name of Christ, how they used their tongues, for blessing or cursing.

Importance of Size

James uses two illustrations to indicate the importance of size. The first is that of a bit in the mouth of a horse. The bit seems small compared to the size of the horse. What did James use as the second illustration (James 3:4)?

The basic life principle in these illustrations is that those things which outwardly seem small can often be of great importance.

In God's sight, each person is of infinite value. Even though a person may consider oneself insignificant in the eyes of contemporaries, God still cares for that person (Matthew 6:26). So valuable is each one to God that even the hairs of the head are numbered (Matthew 10:30). Each person is worth more to God than all the wealth in the world.

Potential for Evil

James calls attention to the evil potential of the tongue.

Can you identify what these evil potentials might be? Refer to James 3: 1-13.

What are the ways a Christian can work toward control of the tongue?

Listen carefully to what you say in the next 24 hours. Is your tongue a blessing to God and other people?

A commonly known story comes from the life of Martin Luther. It is said that the devil approached him one day and tried to use the fact that every person is fallible. He presented the Reformer with a long list of his sins. When he had finished, Luther replied, "Think a little harder; you must have forgotten some." This the devil did, adding other sins to the list. At the end of this, Martin Luther simply said, "That's fine. Now write across that list in red ink, "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin." The devil had nothing further to say.

There is only one person who ever lived without making a slip of the tongue. That person is the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. In Search of the Red Fox

Read Ephesians 4:17-27.

**Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
and do not make room for the devil.
(Ephesians 4:26-27)**

Paul was not content to explain a principle and then leave it. He always applied it to needy areas of life. Paul even dared to name sins. One of the five sins named in this section is that of *anger*.

Anger is an emotional arousal caused by something that displeases us. In itself, anger is not a sin, because even God can be angry (Deuteronomy 9:8, 20; Psalm 2:12). Several times the Old Testament mentions "the anger of the Lord" (Numbers 25:4; Jeremiah 4:8; 12:13). The holy anger of God is a part of his judgment against sin, as illustrated in our Lord's anger when he cleansed the temple (Matthew 21:12-13).

The Bible often speaks of anger "being kindled," as though anger can be compared to fire (Genesis 30:2; Deuteronomy 6:15). Sometimes a person's anger smolders, and this one would call *malice*; but this same anger can suddenly burst forth and destroy, and this we

would call *wrath*.

It is difficult for us to practice a truly holy anger or righteous indignation because our emotions are tainted by sin, and we do not have the same knowledge that God has in all matters. God sees everything clearly and knows everything completely; we do not.

The New Testament principles seems to be that believers should be angry at sin but loving toward people. "The Lord loves those who hate evil" (Psalm 97:10). It is possible to be angry at things and not sin. But if we do sin, we must settle the matter quickly and not let the sun go down upon our wrath.

Identify possible examples or situations that reflect these thoughts.

According to Jesus, anger is the first step toward murder (Matthew 5:21-26). Anger gives the devil a foothold in our lives, and Satan is a murderer (John 8:44). Satan hates God and God's people, and when he finds a believer with sparks of anger in the heart, the devil fans those sparks, adds fuel to the fire, and does a great deal of damage to God's people and God's church.

4. In Search of the Blue Fox

Read Psalm 42.

You have the right to get depressed, but not to stay that way. When believers stay depressed, they keep others out of the kingdom of God; they bear false witness to God's sustaining love.

**We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.
(2 Corinthians 4:8-9)**

In this day of great pressure, high stress, constant demands, and little leisure, more and more of God's people are dropping through the cracks as victims of burnout, fatigue, and depression. It is not uncommon to meet those in the Lord's business who have worked themselves into a frenzy, burning the proverbial candle at both ends until there is neither candle nor wick left to burn.

They find themselves weary and dreary souls, in need of rest, time to repair and heal. They are not interested in programs or projects that require energy and more time. Such folks need to be respected, not harassed. They need time to work through and to silence "the tyranny of the urgent."

Elijah would no doubt say a resounding "Amen." He was in the frying pan of intense

involvement as God's prophet, standing alone against King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. Then he called down fire on Mount Carmel as he faced the prophets of Baal. Elijah was in the thick of things for years. He had prayed, prophesied, preached, suffered, confronted the king, and mocked the false prophets, and fought spiritual battles to call the people back to God.

Suddenly, his equilibrium snapped as he stumbled into the wilderness all alone and begged the Lord to take his life (1 Kings 19:1-5). His vision of the big picture was blurred, and his motivation for ministry had vanished. It is beautiful to study how graciously God dealt with his man.

God did not lay a guilt trip on Elijah. No long sermon. Not even a frown or a threat. With divine compassion, God allowed the prophet time and space to recover. The Lord even catered a meal for the exhausted prophet to enjoy. All of us could learn much from God's therapy.

Folks will slip into our church who are in need of inner healing. They are spent. Hungry for a place to repair, they long for the freedom to be still and to gain renewed perspective.

Such folks are to be respected and allowed some room to recover. They don't need somebody to corner them and "put 'em to work." In such cases, assimilation and involvement need to be put on hold. Their greater need (as in the case of Elijah) is to be allowed the freedom to relax. In due time, energy and perspective will return. In most cases, depression isn't a terminal disease.

Read the prayer of David as written in Psalm 142. What a powerful message on depression! In the depths of distress and at the end of his rope, he talked with his Lord about his desperate situation.

Perhaps you feel down today, thinking that all hope is gone, that God has abandoned you, that the end has come. You may feel those things, but that doesn't mean your feelings are true. The Lord of heaven knows the pressure of your feelings.

God understands the depth of your distress. Best of all, our heavenly Father is there. God cares. God understands; "The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me" (Psalm 142:7).

If you feel as if you are in a cave of depression, try your best to look up to heaven. Call upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Hold nothing back. You can trust him to handle whatever you toss in his direction. Tell the Lord exactly how your situation is affecting you. If you are able, spell out precisely what you need at this time. Rely on the Lord. Do not doubt, and do not waver. Stand firm.

Psalm 142 is required reading for anyone undergoing the daily grind of depression.

God may be preparing you for a unique message and an enviable ministry. God may use that dark cave of depression as part of the divine plan, developing you to help others later. Who

knows? The light you have been longing to see could return today.

Spend a few minutes thinking through why you find yourself submerged amid such dark

feelings and dismal outlook. Does it include:

- something from your recent past?
- something you feel angry about?
- something between you and another person?
- something you resent or thought had ended?
- something you fear in the future?

A time of personal analysis can yield a great deal of insight. Take time to do just that.

Have you sought the assistance, friendship, and counsel of another? Why not start there? Have you had a physical exam in the past twelve months? If not, do so. People who stay depressed over a long period of time usually become lonely sufferers. There is a better way. To stay all alone only deepens the cave and intensifies the sadness. Seek help. It may require professional assistance. If so, don't hesitate. Caves can be awful and demoralizing. Our minds play tricks on us if we stay in them too long.

5. In Search of the Green Fox

Read Luke 12:13-21.

There are two kinds of jealousy. One kind is good, found in such passages as Matthew 6:24, 33; Ephesians 6:1-4; Mark 12:17; and Romans 13:7. What does jealousy mean in these cases?

The other kind of jealousy is not good and is to be shunned. What is the meaning of this bad jealousy?

**So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.
(Colossians 3:1-4)**

"Jealousy," says Proverbs 6:34, "arouses" a spouse. Jealousy and envy are often used interchangeably, but there is a difference. Envy begins with empty hands, mourning for what it doesn't have. Jealousy is not quite the same. It begins with full hands but is threatened by the loss of its plenty. It is the pain of losing what is mine to someone else, in spite of all my efforts to keep it. Hence, the tortured cry of Othello when he fears that he is losing

Desdemona:

**I had rather be a toad
And live upon the vapor of a dungeon,
Than keep a corner in the thing I love
For other's uses.
(Othello 111, iii, 270)**

Envy in Scripture?

Envy sold Joseph into slavery, drove David into exile, threw Daniel in the den, and put Christ on trial (Matthew 27:18). Paul tells us that envy is a big part of depravity (Romans 1:29), a team member that plays in the same backfield with profanity, suspicion, and conceit (1 Timothy 6:4).

The Sin of Jealousy

This was Cain's sin. He was jealous of Abel. He resented God's acceptance of his brother. No doubt Cain's face was red with emotion and his eyes filled with rage as God smiled on Abel's sacrifice. Not until Abel's warm blood poured over Cain's cruel hands did his jealousy subside. Solomon might well have written the epitaph for Abel's tombstone:

**Jealousy is cruel as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire.
(Song of Solomon 8:6, RSV)**

Jealousy will drown a friendship, dissolve a romance, and destroy a marriage. It will shoot tension through the workplace. It will wipe out unity on a team, ruin a church, create discord between pastors, foster competition in a choir, with bitterness and finger-pointing among talented instrumentalists and capable singers. Jealousy will question motives and deplore another's successes.

The terrible bitterness of jealousy is reflected even in Old Testament Law. Read Numbers 5:11-31, and contrast its tone and content with 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Which do you want in your life? Why?

6. In Search of the Yellow Fox

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

Fear—what a paralyzing emotion it is! Fear keeps some people on the sidelines, not in the

game. It keeps others just at the edge of real fulfillment. Some are afraid to fall in love for fear that they will be hurt. Some are afraid to express their true emotions and commitment for fear that they will be laughed at or even rejected.

Fear creeps into one's vineyard by a dozen different doors. Fear of failure. Fear of heights. Fear of crowds. Fear of disease. Fear of rejection. Fear of unemployment. Fear of what others are saying about oneself. Fear of moving away. Fear of height or depth or distance or death. Fear of being yourself. Fear of buying. Fear of selling. Fear of financial reversal. Fear of war. Fear of the dark. Fear of being alone.

Whatever the cause of such fear, the result is the same. No contribution is made, so no fulfillment is experienced. No investment is made, so no gain is received. No risk is taken; therefore, no victory is won.

Lurking in the shadows around every imaginable corner, fear threatens to poison one's inner peace and outward poise. The yellow fox of fear relies on scare tactics and surprise attacks. It watches for the vulnerable moment, then picks the lock that safeguards one's security. Once inside, it strikes quickly to transform spiritual muscle into mental mush. The outlook for recovery is not good.

David's twenty-seventh psalm, however, contains an unusually effective antitoxin. The monarch of Israel gives a bold prescription guaranteed to infuse iron into our bones. He meets the yellow fox of fear face-to-face at the door of his dwelling with two questions:

Whom shall I dread?

Whom shall I fear?

David slams the door in the face of the yellow fox with the declaration:

**My heart shall not fear, . . . yet I will be confident.
(Psalm 27:3)**

Then he whistles and hums to himself as he walks back into the family room, kitchen, office, or bedroom, reminding himself of the daily dosage required to counteract the repeated attacks of the yellow fox:

Prayer: "I asked of the Lord" (verse 4).

Vision: "To behold the beauty of the Lord" (verse 4).

God's Word: "To inquire in his temple" (verse 4).

God's Protection: "He will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent" (verse 5).

Moment-by-Moment Worship: "I will sing" (verse 6).

Rest: "I believe. . . . Wait for the Lord" (verses 13-14).

Determination: "Let your heart take courage" (verse 14).

Read Psalm 27; 2 Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 51:12-16.

Identify three fears that you have.

Choose one fear and read some other material that could help reduce some of that fear. Close the door in the face of that yellow fox by claiming God's protection as David did.

Take another of your fears from the three you identified. Decide what would be the worst that could happen if that fear were real.

How is God bigger than the fear?

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid.
(Psalm 27:1)**

7. In Search of the Black Fox

Read Psalm 91.

**If any of you is lacking wisdom, ask God,
who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly,
and it will be given you.
But ask in faith, never doubting,
for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea,
driven and tossed by the wind;
for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way,
must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.
(James 1:5-8)**

The black fox comes with that wretched feeling of meaninglessness and doubt. Doubt can be debilitating. Hesitation and uncertainty are characteristic of the doubter. Let's look at some basic reasons why people tend to doubt their salvation.

First, *sin in their lives*. Sin brings a feeling of estrangement from God, a feeling of isolation.

Second, *false teaching*. False teaching, against the Word of God, leads to doubts of salvation. There are even some pastors who do not count the Bible as God's Word.

Third, *an overemphasis on emotions*. Some place a lot of importance on "feel good" religion.

When the entire Christian life is based on emotions rather than on doctrine, assurance is rare. Disappointments come. Doubt multiplies.

Fourth, *failure to take God at his Word*. Read Acts 16:31.

Fifth, *satanic attacks*. Satan is the accuser of Christians. Satan whispers doubt.

Assurance

Read 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 20:28; 1 Peter 2:24; John 1:12; John 3:36.

**Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word
and believes him who sent me has eternal life,
and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.
(John 5:24)**

Are You Still Struggling with Assurance?

Apply these three tests:

1. Do I believe the Word of God? God said it; I believe it; that settles it.
2. Do I have the witness of the Holy Spirit? Read 1 John 5:6. "This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth." It is conviction, not just feeling, that counts.
3. Do I have the walk of the believer? Am I different? Do I have a deep desire to please the Lord Jesus? 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Tell God that you are ready to take him at his Word. Salvation is not a feeling; it is a fact based on the finished work of Christ at Calvary. If we believe the gospel and follow Christ in daily life, Christ will protect us and not let anyone snatch us out of the Father's hand (John 10:29; 17:12).

In spite of the tendency to doubt, we can be encouraged: honest doubt often leads to solid faith and deeper commitment.

**Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him
must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**

(Hebrews 11:6)

Conclusion

In the Song of Solomon, the foxes represent anything which injures, by stealth and cunning, the graces of those who are the objects of divine love. God loves you!

It is my sincere prayer that as you confront the "little foxes" that come your way, you will experience some of the abundant life Jesus talked about.

**I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly.
(John 10:10b, KJV)**

Endorsements

"*Little Foxes That Spoil the Vines* is a book for spiritual renewal. Probes deeply into our attitudes and the subtle sins of the spirit, which spoil life's meaning, effectiveness, and relationships with God and others. The chapters are biblical and Christ-centered, leading toward deliverance and healing." --John M. Drescher, Author, *Doing What Comes Spiritually*

"Points out the danger of ignoring 'little sins.' These peccadilloes are skillfully portrayed as little foxes that can ruin our lives if left to run wild. Miller offers practical suggestions for controlling them before damage is done." --Susan Titus Osborn, Editor, *The Christian Communicator*

Dialogue Welcomed

If you would like to share your thoughts or comments regarding *Little Foxes That Spoil the Vines* or about this Study Guide, I would like to hear from you.

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God's Best to You for the Abundant Life!