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OVERCOME WITH INSECURITY

ALL OF US ARE INSECURE about one thing or another. For some of us it's our weight; for others it's their broken-out skin. Some of us are ashamed of our test scores, and others are embarrassed about their families. If you asked most of us to look in a mirror and describe ourselves honestly, our flaws would probably outweigh our assets by at least five to one. Why is that?

We see ourselves differently than God sees us. He sees the word *potential* stamped across our foreheads in big, bold letters, but for one reason or another we misread it and assume it says *no good*. Nothing is more stifling than insecurity. I should know—I've battled it for almost all of my life. Although I'm not exactly sure what causes it, I do know who does. Here's a hint: It's not God. The Devil himself is the author of insecurity in our lives.

Even Miriam wasn't exempt from it. In her lifetime, she emerged as a well-known leader and overcame incredible odds. But her

life was also marked by a few wrong choices that had monstrous consequences. I believe those wrong choices were fueled by her insecurities.

I'm writing the introduction to this book a mere few days after a nineteen-year-old girl I knew was killed in an automobile accident that was the result of some of her own bad choices fueled by her insecurities. Insecurity mars our judgment, and it can drive us to do some risky, dangerous, and downright stupid things.

That's why it is important that we get a handle on it and deal with it for what it is in our lives: sin. Insecurity is a reverse form of pride. Instead of thinking we're great, we think we're anything but great. But the end result is that we still spend far too much time thinking of ourselves.

Insecurity was Miriam's downfall. I wrote this Bible study in hopes that it won't be our downfall too. Although Scripture doesn't give us many details about Miriam's life, it does give us enough to learn from and work through over the short period of six weeks. My prayer is that these next six weeks form a turning point in your life and that you are able to begin the process of breaking free from some of the insecurities that have enslaved you. Hopefully, meeting Miriam in her bondage will free us from ours.

So grab a pen and make sure you have your Bible ready. It's going to be an exciting six weeks, and I'm glad you have decided to join me on Miriam's journey from bondage to freedom. Onward and upward we go!