

ENCOUNTERS 2012



24-7 PRAYER

PRAYER, MISSION AND JUSTICE

DEEPER GUIDE

WEEK ONE



ENCOUNTER [EN-KOUN-TER]: TO COME UPON OR MEET WITH, ESPECIALLY UNEXPECTEDLY



This week the 24-7 Prayer podcast focuses on encounters between God, Adam and Abraham.

Use this deeper guide alone, with family and friends, or with your church small group to look at little deeper at the themes raised and how they apply to our lives.

CONTENTS

1. **Reflect:** considering the themes raised
2. **React:** journaling or discussion questions
3. **Respond:** responding practically



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible
- Pen/pencil



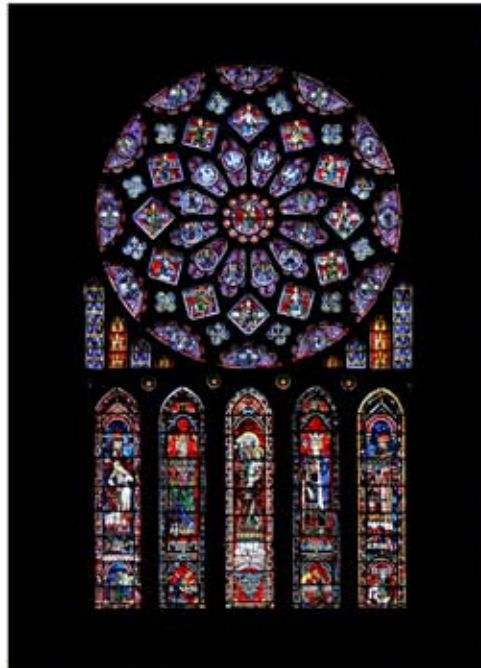
REFLECT

Spend time considering the following Bible verses, quotes, images and lyrics for reflection.

Read Genesis 1:26-31, 2:4b-8, 3:1-10, 12:1-5, 18:23-33.

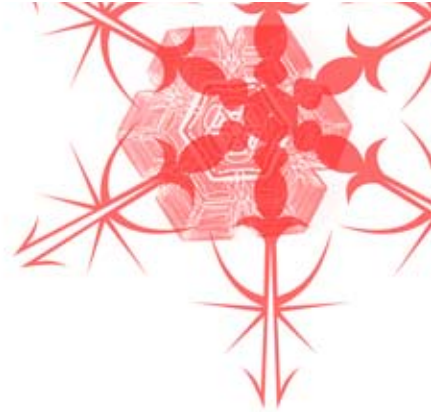
“GOD IS A WILD MAN,,, SHOULD YOU ENCOUNTER HIM,,, HANG ON FOR DEAR LIFE OR LET GO FOR DEAR LIFE IS A BETTER WAY TO SAY IT.”
RICH PULLINS

Masterpieces of architecture and design:



"Breath on me, breath of God" by Edwin Hatch

- 1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.



“ FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NEITHER ANGELS NOR DEMONS, NEITHER THE PRESENT NOR THE FUTURE, NOR ANY POWERS, NEITHER HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. ” ROMANS 8:38-39

“ TO CLASP THE HANDS IN PRAYER IS THE BEGINNING OF AN UPRISING AGAINST THE DISORDER OF THE WORLD. ”

KARL BARTH



REACT

1. Consider all the beautiful masterpieces created in this world: Notre-Dame Basilica, St. Peters, the Mona Lisa, the great wall of china and so many more. Man created all these. Consider how much more incredible YOU are, as a masterpiece created by God and how He must value you.
2. Read Edwin Hatch's Hymn, *Breath on me, breath of God*, and take a few minutes to think about words or lines that stand out to you. Journal or share with others what these words mean to you.
3. Think about a time when you have 'encountered' God. Perhaps it was through a person, an experience, something you were reading or listening to... How could you create space to have more of these encounters this Christmas season?
4. Often sin can make us feel far from God. Read Romans 8:38-39. Consider the words and let them sink deep into your heart. What is it that causes you, like Adam, to 'hide' from God?
5. Reflect on Abraham's encounter with God; he left his fathers household to go to place he had never even seen before. Would we be obedient to God if He called us to do something unexpected? Speak to God about your answer and ask for the ability to here him clearly and the faith and grace to follow wherever He calls.



RESPOND

PERSONALLY:

God has created each human uniquely. No two people are the same! What are your strengths, talents, gifts and the things that make you fearfully and wonderfully made? Write them down and offer them to back to God as your worship today.

Write down any sin that is keeping you from encountering God this Christmas season. Remembering Jesus' death on the cross and that nothing can separate us from His love. Pray and ask God to forgive you. When you're done, rip the piece of paper up and throw it in the bin/trash.

PRACTICALLY:

As you prepare for this Christmas season, take some time out this week to intentionally make space to encounter God. Find your connection point in silence, the word, art, creation, activity, or somewhere else. You may want to go to the places where you've experienced His presence in the past or speak with people who most inspire you to know him deeper.

PRAYERFULLY:

Just like Abraham, we have the ear of God! *"The Lord inclines his ear towards us"* (Psalm 116). Your prayers change the world. What are the things that are concerns disturbing your heart at the moment? Ask God to move and know that he is listening to every word you speak and think.

Use these words taken from the Christmas Carol, "O Come O Come Emmanuel" as a prayer this Christmas season:

"O Come O Come Emmanuel" (David Crowder Band)

O come o come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears

Rejoice, rejoice
Emmanuel shall come to thee oh Israel

Oh come thou day-spring come and cheer

Our spirits by thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Oh come desire of nations bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Bid thou our sad divisions cease
And be thyself our king of peace

Rejoice, rejoice
Emmanuel has come



NEXT WEEK: GOD'S ENCOUNTERS WITH MOSES AND JOSHUA.

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