

# ENCOUNTERS 2012



## 24-7 PRAYER

PRAYER, MISSION AND JUSTICE

### DEEPER GUIDE

WEEK THREE



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



This week the 24-7 Prayer podcast focuses on encounters between God, David and John the Baptist.

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, Christmas Carol and quotes for reflection.



**Read this week's Bible readings: 1 Samuel 16:6-13, Psalm 8, 1 Chronicles 28: 2-7, Luke 3: 2-6, Luke 3: 7-14.**

*"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ,*

*if any comfort from his love,  
if any common sharing in the Spirit,  
if any tenderness and compassion,*

*then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*

*Philippians 2:1-4*

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.

He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees!  
O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine,  
O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night,  
O night Divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient land.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise  
we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name,  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name  
forever,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend.

by John Sullivan Dwight





# REACT



*"Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God's new Temple. They are, individually and corporately, places where heaven and earth meet." N.T. Wright*

*"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:1-2*

*"If our giving doesn't cause us to treasure Christ more than material goods, it is probably just a sentiment, not a sacrifice." Tim Keller*

*"SUCH IS THE FATE OF ALL WHO ARE GREEDY FOR MONEY;  
IT ROBS THEM OF LIFE."*

*PROVERBS 1:19*



## RESPOND



### PERSONALLY:

Are there any areas of your life where you're struggling to experience God's presence and truly encounter Him? God wants us to invite Him into every area, big and small, of our life. Ask Him to come dwell afresh in your life today.



### PRACTICALLY:

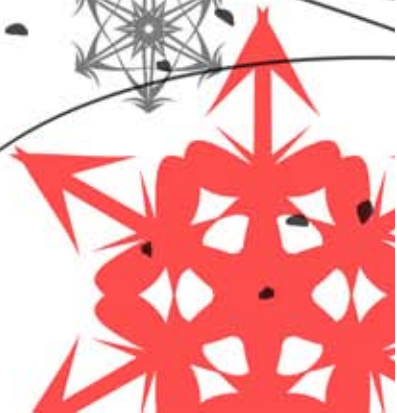
Try doing something this week to be radically generous. It could be giving time, thought, resource or money to really bless someone this Christmas season. How can we incorporate radical generosity more into our day-to-day lives?

How could people experience God through your generosity?

### PRAYERFULLY:



Read through the song Oh Holy Night slowly and pray through each section. As we realize how blessed we are to have the gift of Jesus, pray that God would make a way for others to know Him. Pray also that during this season, which is heavily commercialized, people would experience the true nature of generosity, which is found in Christ.





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