



Open Your Heart To Divine Encounters (Luke 2:8-20)

Sunday, December 18, 2023 AVBC

Q: What happens when you open up your heart to divine encounters?

1. God's _____ penetrates the routineness of life. (vs. 8-9)

2. God's light brightens the _____ of life. (vs. 8,9)

God works the _____!

-Psalm 121:3

The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; And His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the God of my life. (Psalm 42:8)

-Luke 1:76-79

-Isaiah 9:2-6

As for me, I look to the Lord for His help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me. Do not gloat over me, my enemies. For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord Himself will be my light." (Micah 7:7,8)

3. God's good news calms the _____ of life. (vs. 10-12)

-Psalm 55:2

I sought the Lord and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. (Ps. 34:4)

4. God's _____ over-rules the self-centredness of life. (vs. 13, 14)

Christmas is all about God getting glory;
it is not about _____.

DIGGING DEEPER

(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

Q1: Have you ever had a "divine encounter" with God? If so, explain.

Q2: As a child, were you ever afraid of the dark? If so, how did you manage that fear?

Q3: Read Psalm 112, Psalm 139:11-12 and Isaiah 42:16. What do we learn from these passages about the relationship God has with darkness?

Q4: Have you ever experienced a fear that was either paralyzing you or driving you? What was the end result of that fearful experience? How did the Lord sustain you?

Q5: Read John 20:19-22. What does this passage teach us about the resources available to us to counteract fear in our life?

Q6: The Westminster Shorter Catechism states, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." How can living for the glory of God help us find strength to work through the dark and often overwhelming challenges of life?

Q7: Read the poem below by John Gray. What impacts you from this poem?

Glory to God

The angels told the shepherds
Of Christ the Saviour's birth:
To God in heaven be glory
And peace to men on earth
We praise Thee and we bless Thee,
And magnify Thy name;
We pray that all Thy creatures
May always do the same.