

*The Hobbit Worksheet / Study Guide*  
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**Chapter 15: The Gathering of the Clouds**

**Vocabulary** Define the following words with only 1-2 words

coveted \_\_\_\_\_

decrepit \_\_\_\_\_

spoil \_\_\_\_\_

carrion \_\_\_\_\_

amends \_\_\_\_\_

remnant \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra Credit Vocabulary**

fortifying, quarriers, contrived, parley, undesigned, inheritance, kindred, repent, sires, besieged

**Bonus Vocabulary**

succoured

**Comprehension Questions** Answer the questions briefly (full sentences are unnecessary)

1) When reading the title of this chapter, *The Gathering of the Clouds*, what did you think was going to happen?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Who told Thorin & Company that Smaug was dead? \_\_\_\_\_

3) What else was Thorin & Company warned about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4) How did Thorin Oakenshield immediately respond to the upcoming danger? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) How are the thrush and raven useful to Thorin & Company? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6) Who encamped before the Lonely Mountain? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7) Briefly describe what is occurring in the dwarves' song. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8) How did Thorin Oakenshield respond to the encampment before the mountain? \_\_\_\_\_

9) What does Bard want of Thorin Oakenshield? \_\_\_\_\_

10) What does the elvenking want of Thorin Oakenshield? \_\_\_\_\_

11) Who does Bard remain loyal to and why? \_\_\_\_\_

12) How did Thorin Oakenshield respond to the elvenking and Bard? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

13) How did the negotiations end? \_\_\_\_\_

14) Why did “*the whole place still stinks*” of dragon? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Christian Worldview***

1) Frequently, in literature, storms, thunderstorms, and lightning indicate something disasterous or very important is about to happen. How does the chapter title, *The Gathering of the Clouds*, give you a hint that something of major import is about to occur?

2) It is interesting that Thorin used the term “covet” when describing the relationship between the ravens and the dwarves. Why do you think J.R.R. Tolkien had the dwarves use the ravens weakness of coveting to the advantage of the dwarves?

3) Was it greed on Thorin’s behalf to not share the wealth with the Elvenking? Did Thorin have a point ? The Elvenking did not ask for Thorin’s forgiveness for the unkind treatment he had given to the dwarves. Moreover, the Elvenking did not even try to make amends and did nothing to indicate that he repented his actions toward Thorin & Company. Yet, the Elvenking was kind to the Lake-men without any hint of return. Do you think the Elvenking’s treatment of Thorin was unreasonable?

4) The Lake-men and the Elvenking came armed with troops to take the gold from under the mountain even after they were aware that Thorin had survived. Why? How should Christians respond to emotional blackmail?

5) Bard also had a point. The lake people suffered on account of the actions of Smaug, widows and orphans needed to be attended to, the town needed to be rebuilt, the people would be hungry unless help would come, and some of the treasure originally belonged to the people of Dale. Should Bard have brought his troops and weapons or should he have left these things behind and approach Thorin?

6) Regardless of Bard’s behavior, the impression seems to be that J.R.R. Tolkien holds that Thorin should take the high road and help the lake people as they had befriended him when he was in need. Why?

- 7) J.R.R. Tolkien's view of loyalty and friendship is again demonstrated through Bard being loyal to the Elvenking. It was the Elvenking that helped the lake people when they were in need. Discuss.
- 8) The dwarves calm Thorin Oakenshield by singing and harping to him. Does this remind you of any characters in the Bible and/or Bible story?

### ***Optional Activities***

- 1) Lake-town Toys & Games need your help in developing action figures. Draw or sketch your ideas to be considered for development.
- 2) Create a tune to go with the dwarf song that was sung to Thorin Oakenshield.
- 3) You happen to overhear one of Dain's soldiers grumbling that they must come to the rescue of Thorin Oakenshield. (Remember, Dain is Thorin Oakenshield's cousin from the Iron Hills). You need to explain to this soldier (1) why this mission is necessary; (2) the importance of loyalty and friendship; and (3) the importance of obedience when it does not break the Law.
- 4) Lonely Mountain Art Studio has commissioned you to commemorate the encampment of the men of Lake-town and the elves before Thorin & Company. They have left the decision of how to do this up to you.
- 5) Oh my ! Confusion reigns in the encampment of the elves and Lake-town men. They do not know where they should be. Develop and create banners so the soldiers know where they should go for their orders, food, shelter, weapons, etc.

### ***What does Scripture say?***

#### Friendship

##### A. Kinds of friendship

True ... 1 Samuel 18:1-3

Responsive ... Proverbs 18:24

Ardent ... 2 Corinthians 2:12,13

Treacherous ... Matthew 26:48-50

Dangerous ... Deuteronomy 13:6-9

Unfaithful ... Job 19:14-19

False ... 2 Samuel 16:16-23

Humanistic ... James 4:4

##### B. Tests of friendship

Continued loyalty ... 2 Samuel 1:23

Willingness to sacrifice ... John 15:13

Likemindedness ... Phil. 2:19-23

##### C. Example of friendship

David and Jonathan ... 1 Samuel 17:32-54; 1 Samuel 20:1-42; 1 Samuel 23:16-18