

The Hobbit Worksheet / Study Guide
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Chapter 7: Queer Lodgings

Vocabulary Define the following words with only 1-2 words

queer _____

twined _____

pinacles _____

cropping _____

plight _____

appalling _____

Extra Credit Vocabulary

tempered, furrier, conies, tippet, muff, cockscomb, drones, intently, lopped, reputation, veranda, propped, shrill, refuge, comical, offended, impression, trestles, perils, withered, heath, rent, vengeance, lade, scour, harts, despair, distributed, quest

Bonus Vocabulary

unimpeachable

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

1) How did Mr. Bilbo Baggins react to waking up in the eagles' eyrie? _____

2) *Comic Relief*. How does J.R.R. Tolkien employ the literary device of *comic relief* to break the suspense of the story with the "don't pinch" / "frightened rabbit" scene?

3) When would Mr. Bilbo Baggins see the eagles again? _____

4) Describe Beorn. _____

5) How does Gandalf introduce Thorin & Company to Beorn? _____

6) *Comic Relief*. Describe the use of *comic relief* in Bombur's introduction to Beorn.

7) What retained Beorn's interest in Gandalf's story? _____

8) Who serves Thorin & Company during the meals? _____

9) *Comic Relief*. How does Mr. J.R.R. Tolkien employ *comic relief* when Mr. Bilbo Baggins inquires after breakfast.

10) Where did Gandalf go and why? _____

11) Why do you think Beorn found it necessary to check on the story of Thorin & Company? _____

12) What advice did Beorn give Thorin & Company? _____

13) Why do you think Beorn was the shadowy protector? _____

14) Why did Gandalf leave Thorin & Company for a time? _____

Christian Worldview

1) The dwarves and Bilbo were upset when Gandalf warned them in advance that he would be leaving them. Are there any similarities between this situation and the following scripture verse?

And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever ... But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you ... John 14:16,26

2) Beorn is a skin changer. He can change between a man and a beast (i.e., a bear). He appears to love justice and does not trust any to their words alone, but demands that action be matched with words (not a bad idea). Living on the edge of civilization and knowing what is necessary to not only survive but serve those in that area, Beorn has learned righteous cautiousness and wariness. In early Christendom, there was frequently violent behavior. Some justified and some not justified. As Christendom has matured, we have moved from trusting to brute strength as we have, primarily, civilized those areas that were violently humanistic. (Note: There are similar reactions when one first becomes a Christian). What are the strengths/drawbacks to both Beorn/early Christendom and modern day/dwarves and hobbits?

strengths

drawbacks

Beorn/early Christendom

strengths

drawbacks

Christendom today/
dwarves & hobbits

3) Gandalf had the dwarves introduce themselves to Beorn two-by-two. What bible story does this remind you of?

4) Beorn and Gandalf's warning to stay on the narrow path to Thorin & Company were urgent. Compare and contrast this urgency to the following scripture verses.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path ... Psalm 119:105

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it ... Matthew 7:14

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth ... Luke 3:5

5) **Ponder:** Beorn allows the dwarves and Gandalf to use his ponies/horses. Yet he hangs back to insure their protection as well as guarding Thorin & Company. Keeping one's word is very important. When giving one's word, it does not matter if it were in a court of law or before some august body. If we say we are going to do something and do not, we are not just breaking our word to men but, and more importantly, to God.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain ... Exodus 20:7 (Third Commandment)

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him ... Colossians 3:17

5) Mirkwood forest is scary, dark, and menacing. Compare and contrast Mirkwood forest to the valley of the shadow of death in 23rd Psalm.

7) No retreat ... "Yes, you do!" said the wizard, "if you want to get on the other side. You must either go through or give

up your quest. And I am not going to allow you to back out now, Mr. Baggins. I am ashamed of you for thinking of it. You have got to look after all these dwarves for me," he laughed." Compare and contrast this with the following scripture verses.

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid ... Matthew 5:13,14

Optional Activities

- 1) Prepare a feast for your family that you think Thorin & Company might have experienced in Beorn's home. (Remember, to have dessert!)
- 2) Unfortunately, the Mirkwood Detective Agency has lost their manual, *101 Ways To Determine the Truth of Potential Suspects*. You have been hired by the Mirkwood Detective Agency to quickly replace this manual. Do not worry, they do not expect you to come up with 101 ways to determine the truth of potential suspects; however, they do expect you to come up with as many ways as possible to verify a suspect's story. If possible, could you please include a section on how to detect red herrings? (Note: A red herring is a false lead).
- 3) Beorn is deeply concerned about how the goblins mistreat animals and has developed *Beorn's Society for the Prevention of the Mistreatment to Animals* (BSPMA). He is in desperate need of a commercial to get his message across. Publicity is of utmost importance. While you are at it, please develop a slogan and symbol to represent this society.
- 4) The Mirkwood Detective Agency has been hired by Beorn to spy out those that mistreat animals. Your job is to design a booklet identifying what constitutes mistreatment to animals for the gumshoes in the detective agency.
- 5) The *Beorn Hall Radio Show* will be doing an interview with Mr. Bilbo Baggins discussing the delightful food at Beorn's home and comparing/contrasting that with a hobbit hole. Your job is to come up with questions for the interview as well as possible answers you think of how Mr. Bilbo Baggins may answer.

What does Scripture say?

Watchfulness ... a state of alertness

A. Watchfulness required in

Prayer ... Ephesians 6:18

Daily living ... 1 Corinthians 16:13

Testing ... Luke 21:34-36

B. Useful for

Determining false teachers ... Acts 20:29-31

Our words ... Psalm 141:3

Failure ... Hebrews 12:15

Temptation ... Mark 14:38

Watchmen

God appointed ... Isaiah 62:6

Message ... Isaiah 21:11,12

Responsibility ... Ezekiel 33:1-9

Faithful ... Ezekiel 3:17-21

Faithless ... Isaiah 56:10

In vain without the Lord ... Psalm 127:1