

Encountering
the
Kingdom

Acknowledgements

I want to thank you, Jesus.
Without you, my life would be empty and void,
but your voice pierced the darkness in which I dwelled
and created a wonderful light.

I also want to thank you for my loving
and supportive wife, Geralynn;
without her I could have never experienced
your love here on earth.

Thank you for my children;
Joshua, the prophetic and sensitive one
Cody, the evangelistic and excited one
Katelynn, my determined miracle child and
Aubrey, the restorer of my joy.

Thank you for Mom and Bill who taught me love and
my entire family who taught me friendship.

Thank you for Dad and Carol who taught me
how truly restoring your love is.

Thank you for Bishop, because even when you took
Dad home, you never left me fatherless.

Finally thank you for everyone who supported me in this
project through whatever small help they may have provided.
(Brian, Willis, Brad, Kristen, Duvalé, Jennie, David, Wendy
and anyone else I may have forgotten.)

Encountering the Kingdom

A Diary of Discovery

David J Jackson



A Winding Road Ministries Publication

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Ten suggestions for maximizing this book's potential

Below are ten suggestions, not “commandments”, to help you maximize the ideas presented in this book.

1. Underline, highlight or mark every entry that grabs your attention. Every time you emphasize something you increase your ability to retain that information because your attention is focused.
2. Read only one or two chapters at a setting. The human mind can only absorb so much information at one setting. Take your time and enjoy the material.
3. Scan what you underlined in the previous chapter before beginning the next one. Reading your highlighted information will help you refresh your memory and allow you to connect the ideas between chapters.
4. Make a decision to put the ideas presented in this book into action. Good intentions are only as good as the deeds behind them. Step out and try at least three ideas presented in this book and see what happens.
5. Keep a journal. Write down the ideas you want to see operating in your life. You can also write down any verses that are mentioned and add your own notes.

6. Share the book. Tell someone about the book and what you have read. It is a proven fact that the more you repeat something the deeper it forces the information into your memory. When you are done, pass it on. Do not let it lay idle on a shelf and collect dust.
7. Pray the prayers. Every time you come across a prayer, pray it out loud. There is power hidden in any confession we make with our mouth.
8. Read the book again in six months. You can read the whole book or you can just read the parts you highlighted. Either of these will help you recall and retain the knowledge better.
9. Become curious. Ask yourself what you really believe about God. Be willing to accept that He is more than you ever imagined and act upon it.
10. Answer every question and fill in all the blanks whenever you are asked to write something down. You can then review them at a later date and see how much you have grown.

About the Author...



David Jackson resides in the Mid-Michigan area with his wife, Geraldynn and their four children, Joshua, Cody, Katelynn and Aubrey. He and his wife both teach science in the public school system. After a battle with a heart attack and the loss of a child, both David and Geraldynn decided to renew their search for God. In their journey they discovered something about God that changed their lives forever. In the pages that follow David shares their stories and insights of what they found.



God is still revealing Himself today in ways they could never have imagined. Together they have helped people of all ages and faiths to experience God for themselves. They believe it is each person's right to hear and know God on a personal level, so please join them in discovering an appreciation for the presence of God.

*"If you hold
to my teaching,
you are really
my disciples.
Then you will
know the truth,
and the truth
will set you
free."*

Jesus

John 8:31-32 NIV

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Foreword

In my youthful mind, I believed when life was good, then God was good. As I got older I discovered life was not as simple as I imagined. My attitudes about God changed. Blaming God for the bad situations and taking credit for the good times seemed appropriate. My hard work justified all my good fortunes, but when things were difficult and out of my control I blamed God for not getting involved and making things right. The news reported all kinds of death and despair in the world. Where was God? He should have been doing something about these terrible events, as well as, making my life easier and more rewarding.

I really do not know when I accepted this mind set, but it was gradual. Finally one day I decided to actually ask God why I thought this way. To my amazement He answered and I discovered a person I never knew; someone who actually cared about my life. Why had I not seen this before? How could I have missed such a good friend? Part of the world tried to make me believe He did not exist. Others tried to convince me He was cruel and liked to inflict punishment. How could I have been so wrong?

The purpose of this book is to let everyone know that God's very nature is goodness. His focus is to bring life to us, not pain and suffering. We are actually in a specific place and time in history where He has provided every opportunity to make Himself accessible. God has placed all of His anger and frustration with mankind completely aside. He holds nothing in His heart except love and acceptance. Complete forgiveness is hard for many of us to accept and even more difficult to trust, but if you give God the chance His friendship can become one of your greatest joys.

In the pages that follow I want to tell you about the person I met. We call him God. To me He is no longer a stranger, but a friend. He is more than I ever imagined. He is a King who allowed a simple man to walk beside Him and discover who He really is. This is my story.

David Jackson

I no longer call you servants, because a master doesn't confide in his servants. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

John 15:15 NLT