

CONTENTS



Introduction	4
Trek 1 Most High	7
Trek 2 Truth	12
Trek 3 Cornerstone.....	17
Trek 4 Light of the World	22
Trek 5 Creator.....	27
Trek 6 Living Water.....	32
Trek 7 Counselor	37
Trek 8 God Who Sees	42
Trek 9 Prince of Peace	47
Trek 10 Root and Vine	52
Trek 11 Savior.....	57
Trek 12 Lamb of God.....	62
Trek 13 The Lord Who Provides	67
Trek 14 Friend	72
Trek 15 Shepherd	77
Trek 16 Almighty, All-Sufficient	82
Trek 17 Lord Who Heals.....	87
Trek 18 Father	92
Trek 19 King.....	97
Trek 20 Alpha and Omega.....	102
Trek 21 God of Hope	107
Trek 22 Love	112
Trek 23 Strength	117
Trek 24 Lord.....	122
Anchors	127



When you meet someone for the first time, what do you know about her?

Not much, right?

Other than some physical features and maybe a few of the most obvious traits, first impressions don't give us much information.

Becky, who is one of my best friends, will still occasionally remind me of our less-than-remarkable first encounter.

I was really nervous about my first biology lab in college. I walked in and scanned the room—hoping to spot a friendly face. I stood by Becky's table and shyly asked if I could join her group. She admits she was unsure of me, but she agreed, and we ended up being lab partners for the rest of the semester.

We joke about it now: how shy I was, how dorky she thought I sounded, and how neither of us had any idea what to expect from the other.

It's funny because today, Becky is totally the type of person I can call at two in the morning if I need to talk, and she often claims to know me better than

I know myself. And, after all of our shared secrets, laughs, tears, road-trips, celebrations, pranks, coffee breaks, phone calls, words of encouragement, and countless nights talking until way too late, she might be right.

That didn't happen right away, though. During our time in bio lab we talked, found out we had some mutual interests, and discovered that we made each other laugh. We started to hang out, and we slowly got to know each other more. I invested time in getting to know Becky and figuring out who she really was.

Relationships are like that. They take time.

The same is true about a relationship with God. Sure, God knows every detail about us, but He wants us to spend time getting to know Him.

If you are already in the habit of spending time with God—keep it up! This devotional will be a great tool for you. If not, there's no time like the present to start, and this devotional can help you get going!

But, it's going to take time. We can all make excuses about how busy we



are, but we somehow still manage to make time for friends, family, sports, email, cellphones, TV, and other hobbies. Which means it should be pretty simple to answer a daily invitation from the Creator of the Universe to spend some time together.

Micah 4:2b says, *Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.* Lots of times in the Bible God meets with people on the top of a mountain to tell them more about who He is. And that's where the idea of this devotional comes from: climbing the mountain of the Lord to meet with Him. To do that, we are going to focus on some of the different names of God—some of the names God uses to teach us about His character.

Before we get started, check out these quick tips for having a personal devotion time every day.

- Pick a specific time each day, and then stick to it.
- Find a quiet place where there are few distractions.
- Have your Bible, your devotional book, and a pen for taking notes and answering questions ready to go.
- Pray. Ask God to open your heart to hear whatever it is He might want to say to you today.
- Read the verses that are indicated and then work your way through the devotional thought for the day.

We worship an amazing and awe-inspiring God, and He can't wait for you to climb His mountain and get to know Him more!

Amy White
GEMS Senior Editor



TERMS TO KNOW

You will want to be familiar with the following terms as you prepare for your climb!

Trek: A trek is a journey or trip that often involves some sort of difficulty along the way. This devotional has 24 Treks. Each Trek has four daily thoughts and will challenge you to more fully understand a specific name of God.

Approach: The approach is the path or route taken to the start of a climb. In this section you will be introduced to the name of God and will be given some background information on the passage of Scripture that contains the name. This section leads up to a bigger idea about God and should help prepare you to learn more about Him.

Clipping In: Clipping in means you have secured your climbing gear and are firmly attached to your belays and anchors (the points where you attach your climbing ropes). Clipping in means you are ready to climb. This section will draw out the name of God and help you more fully understand the character traits it portrays.

Free Climbing: In a free climb, no climbing aids are used to help you ascend. Each Trek has two Free Climbing sections that offer you a chance to dig deeper into the Bible and learn more about the name of God without much direction or aid—you will pull yourself up as high as you choose! You can use these sections to learn and grow to whatever degree fits you.

Anchor: Each Trek will include multiple Anchors. The anchor is the point at which all of the climbing ropes are tied down and secured. Each Anchor will give you deeper insight into an idea referenced in other sections, locking you more fully into the truths. You can find a complete list of Anchors at the end of this book.

Summit: The summit is the highest point of a climb. Various Treks will have Summits that challenge you to reach higher and climb further—on your own. These Summits will encourage you to dig into your Bible and draw even closer to God.

Descent: So you journeyed up the mountain to gain a greater understanding of God, but now what? These questions and scenarios round out each Trek and will challenge you to think about how you can apply the truths you have learned in your day-to-day life.

TREK 1: MOST HIGH



APPROACH

One of the first stories in the **Bible** is about a guy named Abram (God later changed his name to **Abraham**). Abram was from the city of Ur. In Ur, most people believed in a pantheon, which is a group of gods.

In the story, God asks Abram to leave Ur. But He was asking him to leave more than just his family and friends. God was asking Abram to change the way he thought about the world. He was asking Abram to put his faith in Him—the one, true God. And Abram did it. He followed God. Abram, his wife, and his nephew, Lot, all left Ur. Eventually Abram and Lot found different areas to live.

Each of the tribes they settled near had its own king. In the story, four kings form an alliance and battle five other kings. The winners raided the losing tribes' homes and took people and belongings as their own. Lot was captured in one of the raids, and Abram went to rescue him.



READ: GENESIS 14

Abram refers to God as Most High. So does Melchizedek, the king of Salem. What do you think it means that God is Most High?



Bible: The Bible has 66 different books that are divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament starts with the creation of the world. It gives the history of God's people. The New Testament begins with the birth and life of Jesus and shows us what the early church looked like. Even though it's broken into different books, the Bible is really telling one big story. It's all about God's plan for us!

Abraham: After Abram left Ur, God made a covenant with him—that means He made a promise. God promised to turn Abram's family into a great nation. Later (read Genesis 17:1-8), God confirms His promise and changes Abram's name to Abraham—which means *father of many*. Abraham's descendants did become many, and the New Testament books of Matthew and Luke both trace Jesus' family tree back to him.

CLIPPING IN



READ: GENESIS 14:18-24

Most High—
Greater than
everything else;
above all things

I love heights. I love being up high. Growing up, I could out-climb all the boys on my grandparents' farm. I climbed trees, I climbed on roofs, I climbed fences, and I climbed ladders: I did whatever I could to be as high as I could.

On my first trip to New York City, I rushed out of the subway station and looked up. I quickly found the Empire State Building and was excited to make my way to the top—to be as high as I could be.

But, I also know what it's like to be low. No matter how hard I try, I still fall a lot. You probably do, too.

And I'm not just talking about physically falling down (though, I've done plenty of that). I'm talking about being emotionally low. I've been sad and lonely. I've been confused. I've been angry. I've been deceptive. I've been prideful. I've been mean. I have discovered over and over that, no matter how much I like being up high, I always end up contacting the ground again. I always fall.

In Genesis 14:19 God is called Most High. God never stumbles. He never falls. He's never prideful or mean. He's not a sometimes-high God or a not-so-high God. He is God Most High. Think about that. He has more power and splendor than we can possibly imagine. God is Most High. He can see everything and holds everything in His hands.

Sometimes I act like other things are higher than God. Sometimes I act like my friends, my new clothes, or even my own opinions are more important than God. But God is everywhere and He is with you in everything. He holds us and supports us. He alone can be called Most High.

1. I am thankful that God is Most High because...

2. When I think about God as Most High, one question I have is...





FREE CLIMBING



READ: GENESIS 14:18-24

The **Hebrew** phrase that means God Most High is **El 'Elyon**. The term 'elyon was typically used for the top god in the pantheon. So, when Abram uses it to describe God, he is making a big statement. It's his way of saying the God he worships is the one and only true God, and all the other gods are fake.

Abram receives a blessing from Melchizedek because the king also refers to God as Most High. Melchizedek knows there is only one, true God. But Abram refuses to accept anything from the king of Sodom. The people of Sodom worshipped fake gods and ignored God Most High.

1. People still worship lots of fake gods (sometimes we call them idols) today. Some people worship money, some people worship stuff, and some people worship status and power. Sometimes in my life I try to put _____ above God Most High.

2. When I think about God as Most High, one question I have is...

Hebrew: A long time ago, history was passed down orally. People would tell each other the stories that influenced their lives and cultures. The stories in the Bible were passed down orally until they were eventually written down. The majority of the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, a Semitic language that is still spoken in Israel and other Jewish communities by approximately five million people.

El 'Elyon: The Hebrew word El likely comes from a root word that means power and authority. Throughout the Bible this word is translated as God. 'Elyon is believed to come from a root word that means ascend or highest. The compound El 'Elyon emphasizes God's uniqueness; it speaks to God's authority and control.

FREE CLIMBING



READ: PSALM 21

Psalm 21 is a psalm of praise. The king is thanking God for all the times he has succeeded in life. The first and last verses both reference the strength of the Lord—framing the psalm with the idea of God’s power. Verse seven is directly in the middle of the psalm and is the focal point—or the most important part—of the song. This verse says the king trusts God Most High.

1. I trust God Most High when...

2. I need to trust God Most High more with...

3. When I think about God as Most High, one question I have is...

Psalm: The Old Testament book of Psalms is a collection of songs or hymns. Most of the psalms were likely used in worship services. The word psalm comes from the Greek word psalmos which means *a song sung to a harp.*



DESCENT

Looking ahead, how could knowing God as Most High help guide you?

What if your dad or mom lost their job and you had to move away from everything you know? Would you be able to trust God Most High’s plan?