



2019 EXPERIENCE ISRAEL TOUR

Study Guide for 8d: En Gedi

Historical background: En Gedi is a large oasis with waterfalls, pools, and two large streams, and is located on the western shore of the Dead Sea. It sounds like a hiker's paradise, so get your walking shoes worked in and start moving. The oasis is known for its

incredible date palms, which you will see as we drive into this beautiful area. The date palms are the main crop in the kibbutz. So, what is a kibbutz, you may ask? It is a collective community, traditionally based on agriculture, where members all work together contributing to the running of the kibbutz. In return, their basic needs for living are met. Teamwork at its best! The kibbutz owns a spa nearby, so if you are super sweet to Kym, maybe she will give you time to soak your tired feet in a hot mineral bath! Okay, that spa is not on our agenda, but you may find yourself with your feet up, while soaking in the "cool" mineral bath of the Dead Sea. Don't forget your suit! Kym, you're the best! All right, back to the study-focus Pauline! En Gedi provided a great water source for this area during Bible times. Around 1000 BC, David fled from Saul to En Gedi, and while hiding in a cave, he had the perfect opportunity to kill his pursuer, King Saul. In the darkness of the cave, David made a wise choice.

Bible Application: Are you ready for a suspenseful story about a man who hid in a cave, while running for his life? Suddenly, the plot thickened when he came face to face with his pursuer. Throughout the plot, moments of true friendship, grace, kindness, and faithfulness trickled into the story. Read [1 Samuel 23-24](#).

1. The story starts off in chapter 23 where the Philistines fought against Keilah and David wanted to rescue the city. What did David ask of the Lord (v 2)?

2. David and his men rescued Keilah, and when Saul heard that David was in the town, he summoned his people to go down to Keilah and _____ David and his men (v 8).
3. David knew that Saul was out to get him and would destroy the city on his account so he sought the Lord. What did David want to know (v 12)?

4. Because of the Lord's answer, David and his men were on the run and Saul was in pursuit to kill David. Saul's son, Jonathan, also David's closest friend, encouraged David. Summarize Jonathan's words and promise to David (vv16-18).
5. The suspense grew as Saul and his men closed in on David, but Saul had to leave his pursuit against David for a short time. While he did, David escaped from there, to live in the strongholds of _____ (v29).

6. In 1 Samuel 24 Saul found out that David was in the wilderness of En Gedi, so he took _____ men out of all Israel, and went to _____ David once again (v 2).
7. While David and his men hid in the _____ parts of the cave, Saul entered the cave to relieve himself (v 3).
8. David's men reminded him that today was the day the Lord had promised to give his enemy into his hand. So in the darkness of the cave, David quietly approached Saul and _____ (v 4).
9. David chose not to take Saul's life and persuaded his men the same because Saul is the Lord's _____ (v 6).
10. David followed Saul out of the cave and called after him. Saul, recognized his voice and said, _____ (v 16). David showed complete respect for Saul and then revealed the corner of the King's robe he had just cut off moments before. How did Saul respond when he realized David had just spared his life? (v 17)

Thanksgiving and Praise: Do you have a friend that stays by your side no matter what? Take a moment to thank God for him or her. Maybe you struggle to be a good friend. It takes commitment, sacrifice, and unselfishness to become a true friend. These attributes belong to God. So if He lives in you, they belong to you as well. Pursue friendship! God will build character in you and bless you with a beautiful gift. Maybe during our trip to Israel, a current friendship or even a new friendship will blossom!

Digging Deeper:

[Experience the Holy Land](#)

Keep looking for blessings!