



A BIBLE STUDY & REFLECTION GUIDE

BASED ON THE BOOK BY
SCOTT HUBBARTT

A SHORT WALK TO THE EDGE OF LIFE

**How My Simple Adventure Became a Dance with Death—
and Taught Me What Really Matters**

A SHORT WALK TO THE EDGE OF LIFE: A BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION GUIDE
BASED ON THE BOOK BY SCOTT HUBBARTT
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INTRODUCTION

Scott Hubbart has something to ask you: “Does God have your full attention? Is your life counting in ways that matter to him? Or is your relationship with him—like mine in the past—more about what you want to do with the time and resources you’ve been given than about following his will?”

One morning in November 2011, Scott started out on what should have been an easy day hike in a remote area of Peru ... then took a wrong turn and spent the next five days confronting his own mortality and reevaluating his relationship with God. This “short walk” changed him forever.

“My simple prayer”—he says today—“is that you won’t get as lost as I was before you are found in the center of God’s purposes for you!”





CHAPTER I

AND SO IT BEGINS

1. Do you consider yourself adventurous—why or why not? What kinds of adventures have you gone on (or dreamed about going on)?
2. If you've ever gotten into a dangerous situation when undertaking an adventure in the outdoors, tell about it.
3. How would you describe your relationship with God? (Not what you remember from back in the day, or what you hope it might become eventually, but what it's *actually* like *right now*.)



CHAPTER 2

SEARCHING FOR A LOST GOLD MINE

1. What do you find most intriguing about Felipe Lám, Scott's wife's grandfather?
2. What is one mystery about your family's history that you would like to solve if you could?
3. What kinds of mistakes can you sense Scott already making in Chapter 2?
4. Do you like to hike? If so, where do you go? What gear do you take with you?
5. Pull up Google Earth on one of your devices and search for Trujillo, La Libertad, Peru, the city where Scott's adventure began. Then find Salpo, La Libertad, Peru, a village near where Scott would begin his hike. Click on some of the photos of the area. What is your impression of the terrain in this part of the world?

Beginning with Chapter 3, you can use the latitude and longitude coordinates in the chapter headings to track Scott's movements on Google Earth.



CHAPTER 3

I'M OFF!

1. How would you describe Scott's temperament and character, judging by what you've read so far?
2. Do you enjoy traveling in foreign countries—why or why not? What are some of the problems or surprises you've encountered overseas?
3. What hints of danger for Scott do you pick up in this chapter?



CHAPTER 4

THE PUNA

1. What kinds of efforts do you make to be a friend to people who come from a different place or who are different from you?
2. What similarities do you see between Scott Hubbartt and his relative-by-marriage Felipe Lám?
3. How much of a risk taker are you? What do you like about taking risks? What do you learn from taking risks?
4. Scott describes a point where he heard a time estimate of “only five to eight hours” for the hike he had planned and ignored the warning “No one goes that way because it is so dangerous.” Describe a time when you heard only what you wanted to hear—and explain if it got you into trouble.

CHAPTER 5

INTO THE CHASM

1. Scott begins this chapter by saying, “In life there are times and events we wish we could do over.” What is one such regret you have?
2. What are some of the things that charm you about being in untamed nature? What are some things about it that make you nervous?
3. What did the wilderness represent to the Hebrews who were sentenced to wander for forty years (Numbers 32:8-13)?
4. What did the wilderness represent to Jesus in his temptation ordeal (Luke 4:1-13)?
5. If you have ever been through a spiritual “wilderness” period in your life (or are in one right now), describe it.

CHAPTER 6

THIRSTY

1. When do you recall being thirsty for water?
2. Read 1 Samuel 23:15-29, telling about the period of time David spent in the wilderness hiding from King Saul. Then read Psalm 63, written by David during that perilous time. When do you recall being thirsty *for God*?

3. Scott says,

About this time I was getting pretty buddy-buddy with God. Other than a few quick prayers the day before, I had hardly given the Lord a thought. But now, realizing I might have miscalculated the difficulty of this journey, I knew I needed help. I was hot, thirsty, cut, and banged up. I began praying for God's intervention.

Does this remind you of a situation in your life? If so, describe it.

4. How do you think God feels about it when we ignore him while things seem to be going smoothly and turn back to him only when we're in need?
5. Crying out to God in distress is a normal human response (Psalms 18:6; 34:17; 120:1; Jonah 2:2). Read Psalm 91:14-16. What do these verses say about what our relationship with God ought to be like when we ask for his help in time of trouble?



CHAPTER 7

THE GREEN GROVE

1. By this time, Scott was experiencing lostness, loneliness, exhaustion, heat, fear, dehydration, cuts, punctures from cactus spines, the presence of predatory animals, self-recrimination, a sense of abandonment from God, and disappointed hopes. Which aspect of his situation do you think was the worst, and why?
2. Read Matthew 7:7-8 and Matthew 21:22. How have you seen the truth of these verses exemplified in your life?

CHAPTER 8

SICK

1. Read Matthew 8:23-27, the story of Jesus calming a storm—but not doing it immediately after being approached for help by the disciples. Describe a time in the past when you waited and waited for an answer to prayer. Speculate: what reasons might God have had for letting you wait before giving you an answer to your prayer?
2. Scott describes what he calls his “stiff neck”:

I believe God allowed me to follow my selfish desires, my prideful arrogance, thus getting myself into trouble. Prior to this ordeal, I had countless opportunities to walk in *his* path, but too often I was busy following my own route, and, sadly, too often I put God in the backseat. God knew of my boastfulness, strong will, and pride, and *he* gave me an opportunity to seek *him* and follow *his* ways. This was simply another chance for me to draw closer to *him*.

What resonates with you in this explanation?

3. About what area of your life are you currently wondering, *What is God trying to tell me?*
4. Scott eventually reached a spiritual turning point. He prayed, “God, if this is what you want, so be it. I surrender. I accept your will.” Compare this with Jesus’ prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-36). In what areas of your life do you need to surrender to God’s will, no matter what?

CHAPTER 9

“HEY, SCOTT. YOU COMIN’?”

1. Do you think that Scott was merely hallucinating when he saw his deceased brother, Glenn? Or could it have been a genuine vision sent from God?
2. Have you ever received what you believe to have been a vision or message sent from God? If so, describe it.
3. Glenn Hubbartt was a troubled soul, yet he was dear to his brother Scott. Describe a relationship in your life that is hard for you to navigate and yet remains important to you.
4. When Scott’s makeshift solar stills failed to draw water from the ground, he was in a state of advanced dehydration and nearing death. When have you been most scared for your life?

CHAPTER 10

THE MIRACLE

1. Scott concluded that he had been praying out of selfishness instead of for what God wanted. As 1 John 5:14 says, “If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” What do you think it means to pray according to God’s will?
2. Scott also learned a lesson about turning to God, instead of relying on himself, for wisdom. Read James 1:5. What decision do you need God’s wisdom for today?
3. Quickly review biblical miracles where God provided water in the wilderness. For the Israelites at Rephidim: Exodus 17:1-7. For Samson after he slew a thousand foes with a jawbone: Judges 15:14-19. For a coalition army that had run out of drinking water while on the march: 2 Kings 3:9-20. Do you agree that the temporary appearance of water in the Peruvian riverbed was a miracle, as Scott asserts?
4. Have you ever personally witnessed what you believed to be a bona fide miracle? If so, describe it.



CHAPTER II

THE BOX CANYON

1. Scott was eager to tell people about the miracle he had witnessed. Are you eager to tell others about what God has done for you? If not, why not?
2. Through praise and prayer, confession and confusion, Scott was drawing closer to God, even though his situation was looking dire again. How has God used blessings and hardships in your life to mold your relationship with him?
3. How have you sensed Christ's presence when no one else was with you?



CHAPTER 12

THE ROAD

1. What do you believe is the reason (or reasons) why God has maintained your life until this point?
2. What dead ends or detours have you encountered in your life's course lately? What's keeping your hope alive?



CHAPTER 13

FINAL OPTIONS

1. When have you felt angry with God over what he has allowed to happen to you?
2. What do you need to make a decision about in your life right now? What are your options? What do you think you are hearing from God about the best choice?

CHAPTER 14

DANCE OF DEATH

1. How have the trials in your life purged you of secrecy, sin, or shame?
2. Do you ever think about your death—or do you avoid thinking about it? Do you believe that you'll be ready to surrender to God's will for your death and commit your spirit to him when the time comes?
3. What is an area of your life where you need to summon up your resolve today and make one more attempt?
4. Read Psalm 42 and think about what has been causing you fear or discouragement lately. Like the psalmist who repeated, "Why, my soul, are you downcast?" how can you encourage yourself?

If you know the song "As the Deer" by Martin Nystrom, sing it.

CHAPTER 15

FOUND

1. How could you cultivate a habit of greater thankfulness to God?
2. To whom could you give a testimony of praise for God's goodness toward you?
3. Scott realized that if he had kept trying to walk out of the canyon, as he had intended, he wouldn't have made it. God showed him the green grove so that he would wind up back at the riverbed and would be found by the cement workers. In other words, what had disappointed him ended up saving him. "God's plan and timing are always perfect," he says. Looking at your circumstances today, how might God be deliberately redirecting your course?
4. Just as Jesus encountered the devil in the wilderness, so the Peruvian locals attributed compass variations to demons living in the puna where Scott had wandered. Of course, there was a physical explanation for the compass needle swings. Nevertheless, it's true that when evil tries to mislead us, God shepherds us in the way we ought to go. Read Genesis 50:20 and explain how its underlying principle has been shown to be true in your life.



CHAPTER 16

HOME

1. When have you received generosity from strangers? What did it mean to you?
2. What does the word *home* mean to you?

CHAPTER 17

REFLECTIONS

1. Scott takes all the blame for getting lost in Peru and gives all the credit for his rescue to God. How might your own stubbornness, selfishness, or unwise choices have landed you in the trouble you have faced? What has God rescued you from?
2. Scott says,

After my near-death experience, the bottom line for me is this: God is in control, and he has a plan for us. Regardless of how lost we are—and that lostness can easily occur in a remote canyon as well as any area of life—we need to acknowledge him, ask him into our lives, and seek his wisdom and knowledge.

Based on this statement, what is it you need to do today: Acknowledge God? Ask him into your life? Seek his wisdom and knowledge?

3. Scott continues:

It is also important to know we have a purpose greater than serving and satisfying our own desires. All of us have opportunities to share the message of God's grace with others.

What opportunities do you have to share the message of God's grace with others?

4. How has *A Short Walk to the Edge of Life* helped you to reassess whatever "wilderness" experience you are going through?

Trust God ...
and go for a walk!

**AVAILABLE
EVERYWHERE**

Learn more about Scott & his short walk at
WWW.SCOTTHUBBARTT.COM

