



# ENCOUNTER —WITH— GOD

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HELPING PEOPLE MEET GOD EVERY DAY

A GUIDE FOR MEETING GOD DAILY IN HIS WORD

# Welcome to *EXTRAS*

*EXTRAS* has been created as an additional resource to use with Scripture Union's daily devotional *Encounter with God*. It is an excellent tool for small group Bible study and can also enhance your own individual Bible reading. These questions will encourage you to dig deeper into the meaning of the Scripture passages you have read during the week.

**Genesis 16:1 - 17:14**

1. In what ways did Abram relinquish his leadership role in relating to Sarai and Hagar? Consider the resulting consequences borne by Sarai, Hagar and Ishmael because of Abram's abdication and his lack of faith in God's promise to him.
2. What comparisons can be made between the covenant God made with Abram and the new covenant ushered in by Jesus?

**Psalm 119:73-96; Genesis 17:15 - 19:19; 20:1-18**

1. In what ways were God's commitment made to Abraham for Ishmael and His covenant to be established with Isaac different? How have those differences played out in history?
2. In what ways can we use the example of Abraham's response to the three men who visited him to shape the ways we in the church should relate to others?
3. What would have motivated Abraham's continued amendments to his plea before God for Sodom? Why did he intercede only for Sodom and not for Gomorrah?
4. Abraham was less than truthful in relating to Abimelech about Sarah; it is not the first time that we read about his flaws. Name others of God's servants the Bible describes as having lack of faith or being outright dishonest. Why is it important that Scripture is impartial relating even to Bible heroes?

1. Why might the angel have told Hagar that God had heard the voice of her son when she was the one who had lifted up her voice and wept?
  
2. God commanded Abraham to do what any loving father would find impossible – to sacrifice his son. God does not tempt us to sin (James 1:13) – and surely, disobeying would have been sin. To what end was God testing Abraham?
  
- 3 God had promised Canaan as an inheritance to Abraham in Genesis 15:18-21. Why then would Abraham insist on purchasing Sarah's burial place despite Ephron's offer to give it to him?
  
4. Abraham sent his trusted servant to his country and kindred to take a wife for Isaac. Why did he insist that the servant could not return there with Isaac, but that he should bring the woman to Canaan?

**Psalm 119:113-128; Genesis 24:29 - 25:11, 19-34;  
26:1-25; 27:1 – 28:22**

- 1.** Why did Abraham's servant deny the request of Rebekah's mother and brother to have her remain with them for at least ten days? Why did Rebekah willingly go with him?
- 2.** Following the death and burial of his father, why did Ishmael settle over against all his kinsmen?
- 3.** Scripture tells us that Rebekah favored her younger son Jacob. What other motivation might she have had to encourage him to deceive his father and receive his blessing? Remember Genesis 25.
- 4.** Jacob had cheated to receive the blessing that Isaac had promised to Esau, the older son he favored. Why would Isaac then offer Jacob a second blessing before sending him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife? How was his motivation different from that of Rebekah's?

**Psalms 119:129-152; Genesis 29: 1 – 30:24; 31:1-55**

1. How did the choosing of Jacob's mother Rebekah for Isaac differ from Jacob's choosing of Rachel? What qualities were considered?
2. What changed in Leah's focus between the births of her first sons and her third son Judah?
3. In Jacob's dream in Paddan-aram, why would God have chosen to describe Himself as the God of Bethel?
4. What are possible reasons Rachel would have stolen her father's household gods?

**Psalm 119:153-176; Genesis 32:1 – 33:20; 35:1-29; 37:1-11**

1. When Jacob had received his father's blessing that included his being lord over his brother, why did he instruct his servants to call him Esau's servant Jacob - and call Esau his lord?
2. Why, after wrestling through the night and being told that he would no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, does Scripture continue to call him Jacob, even after God later blessed and renamed him?
3. Jacob refused Esau's offered company and assistance to go to Seir. Why would he not have been open with Esau about his intention not to follow his brother but to go elsewhere?
4. Why would Jacob have allowed his household to possess foreign gods and then give instructions to put them away before going to Bethel? Why would he then bury them instead of destroying them?



**Psalms 120; Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1 - 41:45; 42:1-24**

1. What reasons might Reuben have had to panic when he found Joseph gone from the pit?
2. As Joseph's story began in Scripture, he was seventeen. He entered Pharaoh's service at the age of thirty. Before then, he was abducted by his brothers, sold into slavery and imprisoned for years. What evidence was there of God's provision and care for him?
3. What might have been Pharaoh's motivation in giving Joseph an Egyptian name and a wife from a powerful Egyptian family?
4. Why would Joseph treat his brothers like strangers and speak roughly to them through an interpreter?

**Psalm 121; Genesis 42:25 - 46:7, 28-34; 47: 1-12**

- 1.** Following his harsh reception and charge against them, what would have motivated Joseph to send his brothers away with provisions and secretly order that their money be replaced in their sacks?
  
- 2.** For what reason was Joseph testing his brothers by having his valuable cup in the mouth of Benjamin's sack? What did their reaction to its discovery show him?
  
- 3.** In what ways did Israel's sacrifice in Beersheba connect with what God had done in his family's history? Remember Abraham (Genesis 21:33) and Isaac (Genesis 26:23-25).
  
- 4.** For what reasons might Jacob have feared going to Egypt, making God's assurances in a vision critically important?

**PSALM 114; Nahum 1:1-2:13; Hebrews 1:1-2:18**

- 1.** Notice the progression of the Egyptians' desperation as the famine continued. What does that tell you about the famine's severity? About Joseph in relating to their need?
  
- 2.** What has Scripture told us about Israel's sons Reuben and Simeon and their actions that would have disqualified them for leadership? Why would Israel claim Ephraim and Manasseh as sons, heirs equal with their uncles and bless them? Why did he compare them only to his 1st and 2nd born sons?
  
- 3.** In what ways can we see the redemptive history presented in Genesis, especially in the life of Joseph, foreshadow that of Jesus?
  
- 4.** Why would the writer of the Gospel of Mark begin by quoting Isaiah and then write about John the Baptist?

**Psalm 123; Mark 1:9-45**

1. John called sinners to repent and be baptized. Why did Jesus come to be baptized by John?
  
2. Jesus called people to repent and believe in the Gospel. Why do you think that He never baptized sinners like John did?
  
3. Why would Jesus silence unclean spirits and prevent demons from speaking when He cast them out?
  
4. Jesus told the man He healed of leprosy to go and show himself as proof to the priests and sent him away, charging him to say nothing to anyone else. Why would Jesus have prevented the man from following Him and telling others? Why was sending him to the temple a strategic instruction?

**Psalm 124; Mark 2:1 – 3:19**

1. Have you wondered what brought scribes/teachers of the law to the house where Jesus was preaching? What would have motivated them to entertain questions about Jesus?
2. What was the significance of Jesus' reference to the Son of Man? Read Daniel 7:13-14.
3. In addition to always being available, in what ways is Jesus the perfect physician?
4. As He called to the man with a withered hand, Jesus looked around at the Pharisees with anger. In what ways was His anger righteous; how can we use Jesus' example to examine our own hearts when angry?

1. When teaching, what reasons might Jesus have had to neglect his mother and siblings when they waited outside and called for Him?
2. During Isaiah's lifetime, the disobedient southern kingdom of Judah was continually being assaulted by larger, more powerful nations and threatened with destruction. Why would Isaiah have compared Judah to Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13)? Why was Judah spared by God when those two cities were destroyed?
3. What motivated the people of Judah to bring sacrifices and offerings to God? Why did He refuse them? In what ways should we evaluate our own motivations for sacrifice and offerings considering what we read in Isaiah?
4. Isaiah wrote that the Lord was ready to both accuse and to judge Judah's maltreatment of the poor. If He were both prosecutor and judge, what would be the inevitable outcome?

**Psalms 126; Isaiah 4:2-6; 5:1-7; 6:1 – 7:17; 8:1 – 9:7**

1. Isaiah prophesied that the Branch of the Lord would be beautiful and glorious and that there would be fruit. Find the image of the Branch repeated in Jeremiah 23:5 and 33:15. See it used in Zechariah 3:8 and 6:12. The Branch is a Messianic title; what fruit would grow from that Branch in Israel? Read John 15:5. What fruit should we be looking for?
  
2. At the end of a long and distinguished reign, King Uzziah died of leprosy inflicted on him by God for prideful disobedience. Why was Isaiah's vision that year important for him and for believers even today when a once respected leader fails?
  
3. Syria and Ephraim (Israel) together were a powerful force with purpose to come against Judah and conquer it. Why would God call them smoldering stumps of firebrands?
  
4. Isaiah committed to wait for the Lord and hope in Him. How should one wait for God?

**Psalms 127; Isaiah 9:8 – 10:4; 10:20-27; 11:1 – 12:6**

1. Isaiah repeated three times that God's anger had not turned away from His people and that His hand was stretched out still. About what things was God angry? Why was He not ready to withhold His judgement?
2. Why would it be prophesied that the Messiah would come as a shoot from the stump of Jesse (and not his son, King David)?
3. Isaiah looked forward to the time when God's anger would be turned away and He would comfort His people. Under the New Covenant, how is God's anger turned away? In what ways does He offer comfort?