



ENCOUNTER —WITH— GOD

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EXTRA

scriptureunion 
HELPING PEOPLE MEET GOD EVERY DAY

A GUIDE FOR MEETING GOD DAILY IN HIS WORD

Welcome to *EXTRA*

EXTRA was 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.

Matthew 26:57-68

1. False witnesses accused Jesus of a heinous threat—destruction of the temple. When commanded by the high priest to respond to the accusation, Jesus remained silent. Indeed, Jesus had spoken these words, but what was he talking about? (See John 2:18-21.) Why do you think he did not defend himself?

Psalm 40; Matthew 26:69 - 27:66

1. What things can you find about Peter's denials and the betrayal of Judas that would have led Jesus to forgive one and condemn the other?
2. Before he was taken for crucifixion, Jesus was cruelly mocked by a battalion of soldiers. How might Matthew have known about a large number of mockers, the scarlet robe, the crown of thorns, the reed thrust in his right hand?
3. Jesus hung on the cross for six hours, three in morning sun, then three in midday darkness. Why the hours of broad daylight? Then, what did the hours of darkness symbolize?
4. What are some of the many comparisons you can draw between Jesus' coming to earth as an infant and his hanging on a cross before he left it?

Matthew 28:1-20; Job 37:1 – 40:24

1. What significance can you draw from the earthquake both at Jesus' crucifixion and his resurrection?

2. In these early verses of Matthew 28, what evidence can you see to defend the historical, miraculous resurrection of Christ?

3. Were it not for Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all men, what things do we know about some of the disciples that would make them unlikely candidates for carrying out the Great Commission? In what ways is that encouraging?

4. In God's calling him to task in Job 38 and 39, what do you believe was the tenor of God's attitude toward Job? How would you defend your answer?

Psalms 41; Job 41:1 - 42:17; Jeremiah 1:1 - 4:31

1. What comparisons can we make between the Behemoth and Leviathan God describes and with Satan?
2. What reasons might Jeremiah have had to be afraid of what God was calling him to do?
3. Why would God say that the faithless northern kingdom of Israel was more righteous than what he considered treacherous Israel to be?
4. Reading this week's chapters in Jeremiah, where do you see God's heart for his people in spite of his anger because of their disobedience, idolatry, and backsliding?

Psalm 42:1 - 43:5; Jeremiah 5:1 - 10:25

1. What points was God making when he compared his rebellious people to the sea?
2. What were the ancient paths that God urged Judah to look for, find, and walk in?
3. When they had fled Egypt, God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. When he established his covenant with them sometime later, he gave instructions for burnt offerings and sacrifices. What does that tell us about God's priorities?
4. What do you see as Jeremiah's best argument for God over idols?

Psalms 44; Jeremiah 11:1 – 16:21

1. Why would God continually speak of both the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem?

2. Since God had made his covenant with Israel, drought had been a threatened consequence for disobedience. What significance should drought have had for the many in Judah who had turned to the worship of Baal?

3. Jeremiah, even though told by God to stop, continued to plead for the people of Judah. In what ways did his plea before God speak to the New Testament Covenant?

4. Jeremiah called for Judah to repent for their idolatry; for what did God require Jeremiah's repentance?

Psalm 45; Jeremiah 17:1-27; Revelation 12:1 – 14:20

1. In Jeremiah 17:24-27, for what reasons would God's only requirement for blessing be to honor the Sabbath?
2. Regardless of who or what you interpret the woman and the dragon in heaven to be, they are called (great) signs. Thinking of other "signs" put forth in Scripture, what would you describe the purpose of these signs to be?
3. Whether we understand the first beast rising from the sea to be a man or nation, or who or what the second beast rising out of the earth is, what things do they have in common? Given the horrific descriptions of the beasts, in what ways does Revelation 13:8 encourage you?
4. In what ways should the first of three angels proclaiming an eternal gospel to those who dwell on earth, to every nation, and tribe, and language, and people be encouraging or challenging? Why, here, is it called the eternal gospel; what does that tell us?

Psalm 46; Revelation 15:1 – 18:24

- 1.** Why would those who had conquered the beast sing both the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb? Notice the focus of the songs.

- 2.** In what ways can we compare the functions of the heavenly altar mentioned 8 times in Revelation to those of the 5 altars in the First Temple?

- 3.** Carried away to the wilderness, John saw a woman richly adorned, drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus. Who, in addition to pagans opposed to Christ, had caused that blood to flow?

- 4.** We read about a stone in Jeremiah 51:61-64 and Matthew 18:6. How would you relate those references to Revelation 18:21?

Psalms 47; Revelation 19:1-10; 2 Corinthians 1:1 - 3:6

- 1.** While used 24 times in the Old Testament, the word “hallelujah” is found 4 times in Revelation 19—but nowhere else in the New Testament. Why do you think it was introduced here?
- 2.** Why was it important for Paul to open both of his letters to the Corinthian church by stating his credentials; an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God?
- 3.** In what ways would Paul’s abundant afflictions and suffering be for the comfort and salvation of others?
- 4.** Assuming that Paul has a specific person in mind who has caused pain, but is in need of forgiveness and comfort, why would he have employed anonymity? How should Paul’s example be applied in our own situations where discipline is necessary?

2 Corinthians 3:7 - 6:13

1. When God removes the veil from our faces, what can we all enjoy as we carefully study the glory of the Lord?

2. In what ways is Satan the god of this age? In what ways is he not?

3. Why can Paul say that we know our earthly home will be replaced by a dwelling place made by God in heaven? How do those homes compare?

4. In what ways do you think the grace of God can be received in vain?

Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 10:6

1. In what areas might we be tempted to become unequally yoked with unbelievers and unbelief in our culture?
2. What examples of defilement of body and of spirit that would keep people from Jesus can you find in the New Testament? How did Jesus relate to each of them? What do we learn from each of their examples?
3. The Macedonian churches, even while experiencing severe affliction and extreme poverty, gave generously beyond their means for the Jerusalem church. Why would this have been important?
4. Paul said that although Jesus was rich, he became poor for the Corinthians' sakes. In what ways did his poverty benefit them? In what ways does it benefit our world today?

Psalm 49; Revelation 19:11 – 22:9

1. The New Testament depicts four different banquets or feasts. What are they and who is described as attending each? (See Luke 14:16-24, Luke 22:7-23, Revelation 19:6-9, Revelation 19:17-18.)
2. Consider the description of the rider on the white horse and of the armies of heaven that will follow him. With what weapons will they do battle? What will be the nature and outcome of this battle?
3. In these closing chapters of Revelation we see God will dwell with his people, the redeemed. In what ways will the holy city, the new Jerusalem be different and far greater than the garden where God first walked with man?
4. Compare the building materials of the new Jerusalem to the building materials of earth. What is significant in that comparison?

**Psalm 50; Revelation 22:10-21;
2 Corinthians 10:7 – 12:21**

- 1.** Paul acknowledged his human needs and frailties. What spiritual weapons were his to use to combat sin and the corruption around him that were in opposition to the carnal habits of the Corinthian Christians?
- 2.** Why would Paul ask the Corinthians to bear with him in a little foolishness or folly? For what reasons was it important for them to do so; why was this “foolishness” necessary?
- 3.** Paul went to great lengths to prove his credentials as an apostle of Jesus. What things should we be looking for in Christian leaders today that give validity to their ministries?
- 4.** Paul received support from other churches. Why would he not accept anything from the Corinthians?

Psalms 51; 2 Corinthians 13:1-14; 2 Samuel 1:1 - 3:5

1. What test questions would Paul have had the Corinthians ask of themselves to see whether they were in the faith, especially in light of the letter he was concluding?

2. What do his several actions, upon hearing of the death of Saul, tell us about David? What examples for our own lives can we take from his example?

3. What motivated Abner, who had been the aggressor, to plead for peace when pursued by Joab and Abishai? Why would the cease-fire fail? In what ways can we compare the battle between the houses of Saul and David to our own personal battles to do what God has called us to?