



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.

2 Samuel 3:6-39

1. What was wrong about Abner's decision to align himself with David after Ish-bosheth's accusation, regardless of its being the right move?

Psalm 52; 2 Samuel 4:1 - 8:18

1. David was about 15 when Samuel anointed him king and was 30 when he took the throne of Israel. In what ways did God use those 15 years to prepare David for his reign?
2. Why was Jerusalem a strategic city in which David made his capital and lived?
3. The ark of God was brought to Jerusalem on a new cart and everyone was celebrating. When they came to the threshing floor, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah died. For what reasons was God displeased, and what was symbolic about the event happening on the threshing floor?
4. David wanted to honor God and replace the tent of meeting with a temple. When God refused him, what did he do? (See 1 Chronicles 29:2-9) What life lesson can we take from David's example?

Psalm 53; 2 Samuel 9:1-13; Luke 3:1 – 5:11

1. In what ways can you compare the believer's relationship with Christ to that of Mephibosheth and David? In what ways are the status and actions of these two men like those of Jesus and the redeemed?
2. Luke's genealogy for Jesus begins with Adam. Why would that be important?
3. As Jesus spoke in the synagogue, he understood that the people of Nazareth wanted to see him prove his claims and perform miracles for them as he had done in other places. Why might Jesus have refused them?
4. Jesus had already healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law, yet when the fish were miraculously brought into the boats, he fell at Jesus' knees. What things were unique about this second miracle that would have caused Simon Peter to fall down in worship?

Psalm 54; Luke 5:12 – 6:42

1. What was correct about the scribes' and Pharisees' logic as they assessed Jesus' declaration that the paralyzed man's sins were forgiven? What was their error?
2. In what ways is Jesus the perfect physician?
3. On a Sabbath, going against convention, Jesus showed love and compassion when he healed a man's withered hand. What was he challenging all of us to consider as we struggle with social arguments in our world today?
4. In what ways are the similarities and differences between the Beatitudes recorded in Luke and those in Matthew helpful in understanding God's kingdom?

Psalm 55; Luke 6:43 – 8:15

1. What are the three things Jesus said are needed for a strong foundation of faith?
2. If Jesus said that John was more than a prophet and greater than other men, why is the least in the kingdom greater than he?
3. What about Jesus' dealing with the sinful woman was even more remarkable than the miraculous healing of the centurion's servant and restoring the widow's son to life?
4. Jesus allowed Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and others to provide for him and his disciples. Given that Jesus received their support (which he could have supplied himself), what can we learn about the importance of receiving as well as that of giving?

Psalm 56; Luke 8:16 – 9:17

- 1.** In what ways are we to take care in hearing God's Word so that we can make it known?

- 2.** What unbelief was Jesus speaking of when he asked the disciples where their faith was? What specific reason had he given them to trust him?

- 3.** For what reasons do you think Jesus granted the demons' request and allowed them to enter the nearby swine?

- 4.** Jesus sent out the twelve disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. As they went, what would be the essentials in their message about God's kingdom?

Psalm 57; Luke 9:18-50; Numbers 20:1 – 21:35

1. Jesus told his disciples that not all who were standing there with him would taste death before they saw the kingdom of God. This statement is recorded in each of the synoptic gospels (Matthew 16:28, Mark 9:1, and Luke 9:27). What do you think Jesus meant by this statement, especially when it was followed by the transfiguration account in all three places.
2. During the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus and spoke with him about his departure to be accomplished in Jerusalem. For what reasons would these two particular men be significant here?
3. In kingdom thinking, in what important ways is a little child a model for greatness?
4. Moses knew that God could cause water to spring from the rocks—he had already done so for the Israelites at Rephidim (Exodus 17:1-7). Why would God rebuke Moses for unbelief at Meribah?

Psalm 58; Numbers 22:1 – 25:18; 27:1-11

1. God had spoken clearly to the pagan diviner Balaam—the man was not to go with Balak’s messengers. Having refused Balak’s offer a second time, Balaam said that he wanted to seek further direction from God. Why would God then respond, changing his instruction—and why would he be angry when Balaam did go to Balak?
2. To whom do you think Balaam referred when he spoke of the star that would come out of Jacob, and a scepter would rise out of Israel? How would you defend your answer?
3. In what way was Israel’s sin in Numbers 25 different from and more grievous than the ways they had offended God in the past?
4. Expressing faith, the daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 26:33) asked for an inheritance in the promised land of Canaan since their father had died without having sons. What things was God honoring in having Moses grant their request?

- 1.** In addition to being a man in whom was the Spirit, what things in Joshua's history would have qualified him as Moses' successor?
- 2.** For what purposes would God have required of Israel daily (morning and evening), weekly, and monthly sacrifices, as well as special sacrifices for feasts throughout the year?
- 3.** What things were significant or symbolized in the burnt offerings of Israel?
- 4.** Had the men of Reuben and Gad *not* kept their oath to help win Canaan for Israel, in addition to breaking their promise, what other sins would they have committed?

- 1.** Among the responsibilities of the priests and Levites was teaching God's law to the people. What wisdom do you see in the proportional disbursement of the Levites' cities throughout Israel?
- 2.** The book of Numbers tells of the 40 year-long journey of God's people from Mount Sinai to the border of the Promised Land. As they wandered in the wilderness what things does this book tell us God purposed to teach them?
- 3.** Paul opened his letter to Timothy and the Ephesian church with the greeting of "grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." How would you define each of the words in that greeting in the context of the Father and his Son?
- 4.** Paul encouraged Timothy to remain in Ephesus to make sure that correct doctrine was taught. What would you say are the foundational points of Christian doctrine?

Psalm 61; 1 Timothy 3:1 – 5:25

- 1.** Paul wrote that those who held positions of leadership and authority in the church (bishops, pastors, elders) aspired to a noble task. In what ways are those tasks or work defined for the leaders in your church?
- 2.** Why do you think Paul would offer a promise of reward for deacons who served well, and not for church leaders?
- 3.** In what ways is the church both a pillar and a buttress of truth?
- 4.** In what intentional ways does your community of faith relate to the needs within the household of faith?

Psalm 62; 1 Timothy 6:1-21; 2 Samuel 10:1 – 12:31

- 1.** In what ways are “different doctrines” cultivated in today’s culture threatening to distract from or undermine the teaching of Christ and the testimony of the church?

- 2.** For what reasons might God have remained silent about David’s compounding sin with Bathsheba until Uriah was dead?

- 3.** In response to Nathan’s story, David declared a sentence of death and of restitution of the stolen lamb fourfold (see Exodus 22:11). In what ways would David’s declaration be carried out in his household—what would be his fourfold payment, beginning with the death of his infant son?

- 4.** For what reasons do you think God would give David’s and Bathsheba’s second son two different names (1 Chronicles 22:9, 2 Samuel 12:25)?

Psalm 63; 2 Samuel 13:1 – 17:29

1. After having Amnon killed, why did Absalom flee to Geshur and not to a city of refuge?
2. In what ways could the story of the widow of Tekoa be compared to the story of the gospel?
3. Why might Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, have personal reason to join Absalom's conspiracy against the king? (See 2 Samuel 11:3 and 23:34)
4. David went to the Mount of Olives weeping, head covered and barefoot. In anguish, Jesus would later go to the Garden of Gethsemane on the same Mount of Olives. What was similar and what was different about what had brought them to that place and what their experience was there?

Psalm 64; 2 Samuel 18:1 – 21:14; 22:1-16

1. Considering all of Absalom's transgressions, why would David give Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, along with all of the people, orders to deal gently with his son? Why do you think Joab and his soldiers disobeyed that order?
2. Why do you think David's reaction to the death of his infant son with Bathsheba was so different from that of his son Absalom?
3. In what ways does David's relating as king to the elders of Judah mirror the ways in which Jesus relates to those who would be a part of his kingdom?
4. Whether you believe David wrote his song of deliverance as a young man or toward the end of his reign, in what ways does it speak of his experience with his trustworthy God throughout his life?