



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.

Psalm 65; 2 Samuel 22:17-51; 23:1-23; 24:1-25

1. Whether you believe David sang about the cleanliness of his hands before his sin with Bathsheba or toward the end of his life, and understanding that he was relating to far more than his hands, on what grounds could he make that claim—in either case?
2. What do you think it is about humility that moves God to save humble people from destruction, but not those who are haughty?
3. Looking at David's last words, what things would you say made him a man after God's own heart? (See 1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22)
4. How do you explain who the "he" is in 24:1 when 1 Chronicles 21:1 tells us that Satan, and not God, moved David to number Israel?

Psalm 66; 2 Timothy 1:1-3:9

- 1.** When he wrote to Timothy, why would Paul's circumstance have made it important for him to call himself an apostle by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus?
- 2.** In his two letters, in numerous different ways, Paul admonished Timothy to be bold (e.g., 1:6-8; 2:1, 3). For what reasons do you think Paul felt it was necessary?
- 3.** Paul reminded Timothy what was important in the gospel message: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David—as preached in his gospel. In what way was Paul owning the gospel rather than referring to it as the gospel of Jesus?
- 4.** In today's culture, where do you see people who call themselves Christians being seemingly "spiritual," but perhaps not biblical?

Psalm 67; 2 Timothy 3:10-4:22; Jeremiah 18:1-21:14

1. Why do you think Paul would write that all Scripture is breathed out by God, rather than simply relating to the Scriptures as being God-breathed? How would you defend your reasoning?
2. Each of us is called to fulfill the ministry God has given us. What things can cause ministry to be unfulfilled and must be fought against?
3. For what reasons did the people of Judah consider Jeremiah's call to repentance hopeless or in vain (18:12, 13), astonishing God?
4. In 2 Timothy 4:17, Paul wrote that the Lord stood by him and strengthened him. Jeremiah said that the Lord was with him as a dread warrior (20:11). How do you think God made his presence known to these two men, both who were experiencing grave hardship?

Psalms 68; Jeremiah 22:1-26:24

- 1.** The Messiah was prophesied to come from the throne of David (2 Samuel 7:5-16). How do you reconcile 2 Samuel 7:16 with Jeremiah 22:30? (Reference the genealogies of Jesus listed in Matthew and Luke.)
- 2.** God said that his people had forgotten his name. What was significant about his holy name—Yahweh—that the Israelites had forgotten?
- 3.** Jeremiah prophesied about the cup of wine of God's wrath (25:15-29). Jesus spoke of it when he asked James and John if they would be able to drink the cup that he was to drink (Matthew 20:22; Mark 10:38). He also spoke of it in his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:42) and again in John 18:11. In what way was Jesus relating to the cup in these circumstances?
- 4.** What things had happened to Shiloh that God said would happen to Jerusalem and its temple if its people did not repent? What things did the two cities have in common? (See 1 Samuel 4.)

Psalm 69; Jeremiah 27:1-32:15

1. What comparisons can you make between the yoke of the king of Babylon that God imposed on the nations to the yoke Jesus offers to those who come to him. (Matthew 11: 28-30)
2. Identify things the 70-year exile in Babylon had in common with the Israelites' 40 years of wilderness wandering in the desert?
3. What do you understand was God's promise of restoration for Israel and Judah, both in their return from exile and in the new covenant?
4. Why would Jeremiah instruct his assistant Baruch, in the presence of many witnesses, to put the deeds for the worthless field he purchased in an earthenware vessel, to last for a long time?

Psalm 70; Jeremiah 32:16-34:22; Luke 9:51-10:24

1. God told Jeremiah that he would both forgive and cleanse all the guilt of Judah's and Israel's sin against him. Why were both things important?
2. Why would God have his name, Yahweh, emphasized in these passages? What would it say to the Israelites?
3. What lessons would Jesus have been teaching the 72 followers, sent out two by two, that are still relevant today?
4. Upon the return of his followers, Jesus rejoiced and prayed. For what things was he thankful that we, too, can use as "stepping stones" in our own prayers of thanksgiving?

Psalm 71; Luke 10:25-11:36

1. How would you say Scripture defines eternal life?
2. In measuring himself against the commands of the Law, what mistakes did the lawyer make as he questioned Jesus?
3. Why would Jesus' casting out of the demon that was mute be beyond belief for the people watching?
4. What was significant about the queen of Sheba and the people of Nineveh as they were told about God that made Jesus' audience deserving of judgment?

Psalm 72; Luke 11:37-12:59

1. What was the spiritual significance of Jesus' telling the Pharisees they were like unmarked graves? (See Numbers 19:16)
2. The word for hell by Jesus in this passage is Gehenna, probably related to the Valley of Hinnom, which was a place to burn garbage in Jesus' day. The place is mentioned in 2 Kings 23:10 and 2 Chronicles 28:1-4. Why do you think Jesus chose this particular word for hell when speaking to his disciples in Luke 12:5?
3. In place of being anxious about things of this world, Jesus instructed his disciples to seek God's kingdom. What things in the kingdom of God should be sought, and how should they be sought?
4. Why would Jesus refer to his anticipated suffering as a baptism?

Psalm 73; Luke 13:1-35; Jeremiah 35:1-36:32

1. What kinds of fruit is God looking for in the life of the believer?
2. What important example did Jesus give us for sharing the gospel in his discussion of the narrow gate?
3. The Rechabites obeyed the commands of their forefather, Jonadab; the people of Judah disobeyed the law of God. In what other ways can the obedience of the Rechabites be contrasted with the disobedience of Judah?
4. What things can we learn from God's instruction to Jeremiah that he write down God's words for Baruch to read in the temple and to Judah's princes?

Psalm 74; Jeremiah 37:1-45:5

- 1.** When Zedekiah asked Jeremiah to pray to the Lord for Jerusalem, why did God respond in the way he did? What principles about prayer might we draw from it?
- 2.** The princes of Judah wanted Jeremiah dead (38:4). Why then did they lower him into the cistern with ropes instead of pushing him and letting him fall to his death?
- 3.** Why do you think Jeremiah chose to remain in Judah with Gedaliah instead of going to Babylon where God had repeatedly told the people to go?
- 4.** As God pronounced judgment on the remnant in Egypt, why would he refer to himself as both the LORD of hosts and the God of Israel?

Psalm 75; Jeremiah 46:1-50:46

1. In what ways would God's judgment against the nations be different from that against Israel?
2. In what ways does Jeremiah use 48:11 as a metaphor for the state of Moab, and how would the metaphor be a relevant warning today?
3. God would judge Edom by bringing on them the calamity of Esau (49:8). Why was that significant for Edom? In what ways did Edom mirror Esau's calamity?
4. The Babylonian empire would be crushed and its idols desecrated, and Israel and Judah would return to God and his new covenant. What would be the terms of that covenant? (See Jeremiah 23:3-8; 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:16-20 and 36:24-28.)

- 1.** The final chapter of Jeremiah, a recounting of fulfilled prophecy, states that King Zedekiah, Nebuchadnezzar's puppet, did what was evil in the Lord's sight. In what ways did he sin against God? (See 2 Chronicles 36:1–16.)
- 2.** Why would Jehoiachin (even after 37 years in exile) have found favor in Babylon when Zedekiah was treated brutally and died in prison?
- 3.** In his letter to the saints in Philippi, Paul greeted them with: "grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." How would you define the grace and peace he offered them?
- 4.** Paul wrote this letter from prison in Rome; he had been imprisoned in Philippi earlier (Acts 16:16–24). Compare the apostle's attitude in both circumstances, and the responses of those who witnessed his confinement.

Philippians 1:27– 4:9

- 1.** Paul writes about conducting our lives—or literally, living life as citizens—in a manner worthy of the gospel. Seeing his instructions for the Philippian church, in what ways are those things relevant for the church in today’s culture?
- 2.** Jesus, from the time he left heaven until he went to the cross, expressed humility. Throughout his time on earth, what are some of the ways he humbled himself that should challenge believers as they follow him?
- 3.** In what ways does a believer “know” Christ? In what ways does one know the power of his resurrection?
- 4.** Exhorting the Philippians not to be anxious about anything, why would Paul instruct the Philippians to make their requests known to God both by prayer and supplication?