



ENCOUNTER  
— WITH —  
GOD

JAN | FEB | MAR | 2024

**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.

**Luke 14:1-16:18**

1. To what was Jesus responding when he questioned the lawyers and Pharisees, since they had asked nothing for him to answer?
2. Being familiar with the horrors of crucifixion, what significant implications would the crowd have realized when Jesus told them that to be his disciples they needed to bear their own cross?
3. What was important about the prodigal son's stated desire to return to his father, and not just to his father's home?
4. The rich man commended his steward for his shrewdness—in what ways did the dishonest man exhibit positive examples for us?

**Psalm 77; Luke 16:19-18:17**

- 1.** In what ways can you compare the rich man in Jesus' story to the Pharisees who heard it?
- 2.** The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his family. What things did the Pharisees and the rich man's family have in common with the chief priests who heard that the brother of Mary and Martha had been raised from the dead?
- 3.** In these verses, Jesus taught us to forgive those who sin against us and repent. What should we do when there is no sign of repentance or seeking forgiveness?
- 4.** In what ways is God unlike the unjust judge?

1. Since wealth (or the lack of it) really has nothing to do with our standing with God, what necessary thing was lacking and preventing the rich young ruler from following Jesus?
2. Matthew and Mark wrote that the healing of the blind man took place as Jesus was leaving Jericho, while Luke wrote it took place on Jesus' way toward the city. Why is this not a contradiction?
3. In what ways did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus that are models for all who receive him?
4. Why do you think God required so many different sacrifices from the Israelites, and why so many specific instructions?

**Psalm 78:40-72; Leviticus 4:1-10:20**

1. For what reasons would God have given different, detailed instructions for sacrifice for the priests, for the whole of Israel, for leaders, and for individual members of the community when they sinned unintentionally?
2. What purposes did the many offerings serve that God required of Israel? Why was the tabernacle the only place where they could be offered?
3. In what ways can you compare the consecration of Aaron and his sons as priests with the priesthood of believers in Christ?
4. Reread Leviticus 9:24 and 10:2. The Lord sent the same fire, but what was the radical difference in their purpose and consequence? What things do those differences speak to you about God?

**Psalm 79; Leviticus 11:1-15:33; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

- 1.** Why did God speak to both Moses and Aaron when he gave instructions for Israel about what was clean and unclean, what they should eat, and how they should live?
- 2.** For what reasons would God have imposed strict restrictions and rituals on the people of Israel?
- 3.** Read Luke 2:22-24 after rereading Leviticus 12:6-8. Comparing those two passages, what things can we see confirmed about Jesus?
- 4.** What was remarkable about the beginning of the young Thessalonian church (Acts 17:1-9) that gave Paul particular reason for thanksgiving—not just for them, but for God’s work in and through them?

**Psalm 80; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-5:11**

- 1.** Why was it necessary for Paul to defend his integrity and ministry? What could have occurred had his work been discredited that would be of concern even today?
- 2.** What were the priorities in Paul's teaching the Thessalonians that we should be mindful of as we disciple others?
- 3.** What reasons did Paul offer for sexual purity in believers?
- 4.** As Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to be watchful and sober, why did he use the example of a soldier, and in what ways was a soldier's breastplate representative of faith and love, and his helmet the hope of salvation?



**Psalm 81; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-2 Thessalonians 3:18; Hosea 1:1-2:13**

- 1.** Paul wrote that Christians should see three specific responsibilities in their leaders. What are they?
- 2.** How would you define the calling to which God calls believers? In what ways does he make them worthy of that call?
- 3.** What did Paul write about salvation and sanctification? Is it possible to have one without the other? Why or why not?
- 4.** What was happening in Israel and Judah that gave God reason to offer his message through the prophet Hosea?

**Psalm 82; Hosea 2:14-10:15**

1. What was significant about the Valley of Achor when God called it a door of hope? What message was he giving Israel?
2. What knowledge did Hosea say the people of Israel lacked that would lead to their destruction? In what ways is this a challenge to today's church?
3. What did God say was missing in the worship of Israel and Judah?
4. When did God find Israel "like grapes in the wilderness," and "like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season?" What about the metaphors spoke of Israel's relationship with God? In what ways did that relationship change?

## Psalm 83; Hosea 11:1-14:9; Jonah 1:1-2:10

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1. Although judgment would come, Israel would not be destroyed and restoration would be made possible. In what ways is God's love and forgiveness not like man's?
2. What were the words God required of the Israelites when they returned to him? What can we draw from God's instruction here for ourselves?
3. How can we see the metaphors Hosea used to describe Israel's restoration relevant to our own redemption?
4. In addition to their wickedness, what things about Nineveh would have made Jonah reluctant to obey God's command and flee to Tarshish?

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**Psalm 84; Jonah 3:1-4:11; Titus 1:1-2:15**

- 1.** Although the word repentance is not used in these passages, how would you define it in light of Nineveh's response to Jonah's proclamation? What was different about the Ninevites' repentance to that of ours in Christ?
- 2.** While the story of Jonah being in the belly of a great fish may seem far-fetched, why can we be sure that, indeed, it is true?
- 3.** The hope God had promised came at the proper time. What things made the time proper for God's Word to be spread throughout the world?
- 4.** What was unique about the calling of elders for the churches in Crete? Why do you think that was necessary?

**Psalm 85; Titus 3:1-15; Luke 19:28-20:44**

1. Why are Paul's personal instructions at the end of his letter to Titus about different brothers in Christ significant for us today?
2. What prophecy, offered more than 500 years earlier, was fulfilled when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey?
3. What was extraordinary about Jesus' riding into Jerusalem on a colt (and not an adult animal)?
4. For what reasons did Jesus weep over Jerusalem? In what ways did he show us God's heart?

**Psalm 86; Luke 20:45-22:38**

- 1.** Jesus foretold the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple. Considering its magnitude and grandeur, what reasons would God have for destroying it completely?
- 2.** Why was Jesus correct when he said that not a hair on the Jerusalem Christians' heads would perish when the city was destroyed in 70 AD?
- 3.** Jesus turned from describing events that we have already seen happen to things that have yet to take place. How are we to be preparing for what is to come? (See also: Mark 13:32-37; I Thessalonians 5:2, 11; Titus 2:11-13)
- 4.** Satan had been told by God what would ultimately happen to him (Genesis 3:15). Why do you think he would use Judas to set into motion the events leading to Jesus' death?

**Psalm 118; Luke 22:39 - 23:56**

- 1.** When he prayed on the Mount of Olives, why would Jesus use the figure of a cup in referring to what was coming for him to endure?
- 2.** What else in Jesus' foretelling of Peter's denial was critical for the man to remember when the rooster crowed?
- 3.** In what ways was Jesus victorious, even while he was being mocked and beaten?
- 4.** Why would it be necessary for Pilate, a Roman governor, to execute Jesus' sentence? Why did the Jewish leaders bring different charges when presenting him to Pilate?