



ENCOUNTER — WITH — GOD

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EXTRA

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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.

Isaiah 5:8-9:21

- 1.** In adding house to house and joining field to field, for what reasons would the owner Isaiah spoke of live alone?
- 2.** What kind of king was Uzziah? Why was his death tragic?
- 3.** Why do you think God, who is omniscient, asked the question, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
- 4.** What is the difference between God’s law and his testimony? Why are both important?

Psalm 99; Isaiah 10-16

1. God assured Judah by telling them that the Messiah would grow out of the stump of Jesse—what possible reasons were there for Isaiah’s reference to Jesus’s birth as coming from the stump of Jesse and not of David?
2. Do we or don’t we need to look at God’s anger in the same way that those of the Old Testament did? Why or why not?
3. In what other places in Scripture do we read about the Day of the Lord? How would you describe its good and bad news?
4. What were the historical connections between Moab and Israel? What things led to the breakdown of those connections and to Moab’s destruction?

Psalm 100; Isaiah 17–21; Hebrews 1:1–2:9

1. In what ways was Isaiah's prophecy about God's making himself known to the Egyptians already fulfilled (at least in part) in the early days of Christianity?
2. Babylon's destruction came at the hands of the Medes and Persians, just as Isaiah prophesied. What comparisons can you make between it and the destruction of spiritual Babylon in Revelation 18?
3. Evident in creation and throughout the history of the universe, what does the writer to the Hebrews consider to be Jesus' greatest power—and how are we to relate to it? Why?
4. Why would the writer to the Hebrews choose to warn believers about neglecting or drifting away from the great salvation they had been given?

Psalm 101; Hebrews 2:10-6:20

1. Why was it fitting for Jesus to suffer and die for the salvation of sinners and to call them brethren?
2. The writer called Jesus the apostle and high priest of our confession. In what ways is he an apostle as well as a high priest? What is our confession?
3. In what ways would you “flesh out” Hebrews 4:9, 10? How would you explain these verses to a new believer?
4. In what ways were Jesus’ temptations even greater than ours? Why were they more weighty?

Psalm 102; Hebrews 7:1-10:10

1. What intellectual challenges would early Jewish Christians have had in seeing Jesus as their high priest?
2. Jesus, our high priest, sat down in heaven and serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle. In what ways did the service of the Levitical priests differ from his? What significant difference was there between the two sanctuaries that would have stood out immediately for Jewish Christians?
3. Describe differences between the Old Testament high priest's entering into God's presence, the Most Holy Place, and our entering into his presence now that Jesus' shed blood has caused the temple curtain to be torn away.
4. Give examples in Scripture of individuals who did not die once and of those who actually died twice. Why was each of these exceptions important?

Psalm 103; Hebrews 10:11-11:40

1. Encouraging believers to persevere, the writer to the Hebrews offered three exhortations (let us...). What do you think is important about their being listed in the order that they are?
2. “But the righteous one shall live by faith.” This is one of three New Testament quotes of Habakkuk 2:4 (Hebrews 10:38; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11). What word in this repeated statement stands out most for you, and why?
3. In Genesis (18 and 21), Sarah laughed twice. Considering those times of laughter, in what ways can we be encouraged?
4. In Hebrews 11:35-38, identify as many Old Testament figures you can by the descriptions listed who lived by faith, but never received the promise?

Psalm 104; Hebrews 12:1-13:25; 1 Kings 8:22-66

- 1.** What place does an altar have in Christian churches? For what reasons?
- 2.** Relating to the Old Testament sacrifices, why was it necessary for Jesus to suffer outside the gate?
- 3.** What attributes of God can you find in the blessing at the conclusion of Hebrews?
- 4.** Where did Solomon actually stand to offer his prayer of dedication for the temple? Why?

Psalm 105; 1 Kings 9:1-13:10

1. God did not only answer Solomon's prayer—in what way did he show his approval of the temple? (2 Chronicles 7:1-3)
2. What was the dual purpose for God's causing Israel to prosper?
3. Many Old Testament passages refer to the southern kingdom as being made up of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin. How would you reconcile 1 Kings referring to that kingdom as only one tribe?
4. When and under what circumstances was the prophecy of the man of God fulfilled?

Psalm 106; 1 Kings 13:11-18:19

1. 2 Chronicles 14:3 tells us that Asa removed the high places, whereas 1 Kings 15:14 tells us that he did not. How are these two passages reconciled?
2. Israel was almost entirely apostate; under Ahab's rule most of the people worshipped Baal. Why was Elijah's declaration about withholding rain, even dew, and causing drought directly significant?
3. As instructed by God, Elijah went to a desperately poor gentile widow in enemy territory. In the events that followed, what was the woman shown about his God?
4. The drought was devastating Israel and Jezebel had been killing the prophets of the Lord; what possible reasons would Ahab have had to actually meet with Elijah and consider doing what he asked?

Psalm 107; 1 Kings 18:20–22:28

- 1.** Why do you think the people gathered on Mount Carmel did not answer Elijah when he questioned them?

- 2.** Obadiah had told Elijah about the 100 prophets hidden in caves. Why would Elijah tell the people that he alone was one of the Lord's prophets?

- 3.** How was Elijah's prophecy about where Ahab's blood would be spilled fulfilled since Ahab actually died in Ramoth Gilead? See 2 Kings 9:24–26.

- 4.** Why did Micaiah agree with the 400 prophecies already offered? Why would the king then press him to tell nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord when those prophecies had been what he wanted to hear?

Psalm 108; 1 Kings 22:29-53; Mark 1

- 1.** Why was it important that John prepared the way for Jesus the Messiah?
- 2.** In what way was the baptism of John the same, and yet different, from Christian baptism?
- 3.** For forty days, Jesus was with the wild animals. In what ways can you tie this to the creation story?
- 4.** People were amazed because Jesus taught them as one with authority. What other places in our readings this week has Jesus shown us his authority?

Psalm 109; Mark 2-3

1. Why do you think Jesus would forgive the sins of the paralyzed man when there had been no confession or repentance offered?
2. The crowds followed Jesus because of all he was doing; so many pressed in on him for healing that he separated himself from them. What lesson can we learn from this account as we seek to share the Good News?
3. Jesus appointed the twelve for two purposes. How can we use Jesus' example to pray for our spiritual leaders—and ourselves?
4. How do you define or describe blaspheme against the Holy Spirit, the unforgivable sin?

Psalm 110; Mark 4; 2 Kings 1-3

1. After he had rebuked the storm, for what reasons did Jesus say his disciples still had no faith? Where had they exhibited their lack of it?
2. Why would Elijah have answered the first two captains who were sent by order of the king as he did, causing fire from heaven to destroy them and their men?
3. Why do you think Elijah continually asked Elisha to stay behind? Why do you think Elisha refused?
4. For what reasons might God have duplicated Elijah's miracle through Elisha?