



ENCOUNTER
— WITH —
GOD

JAN | FEB | MAR | 2025

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.

Proverbs 1:1-3:18

1. According to the first chapter of Proverbs, what is the purpose of this book?
2. What is the metaphor for wisdom? Why do you think this metaphor is used?
3. Solomon tells his son to search for wisdom like silver or hidden treasure (Proverbs 2:4). What are some ways to actively seek wisdom in your life?
4. How should we respond to the Lord's discipline according to Proverbs 3:11-12?

Psalm 120, Proverbs 3:19-8:36

1. Proverbs 4:23 instructs us to guard our hearts. How do we do this?
2. In Proverbs 5, how does Solomon describe the speech and lips of an adulterous woman? What can we learn about temptation in general from this description?
3. Why do you think God detests the seven things mentioned in Proverbs 6?
4. What does it mean that wisdom was the first of the Lord's works (Proverbs 8:22)? Why is it important that wisdom was with God during creation?

Psalm 121, Proverbs 9, Acts 12:25-13:52

- 1.** How do you respond to correction in your own life? Do you respond like the mocker or the wise in Proverbs 9?
- 2.** In Acts 13 the Holy Spirit tells those worshipping and fasting to set apart Barnabas and Saul. They are then commissioned for ministry. What can we understand about the work of the Holy Spirit from this encounter?
- 3.** What can we discover and reflect on from the conversions of Sergius Paulus and the gentiles?
- 4.** What can we learn about the fulfillment of the Old Testament in Paul's sermon in Pisidia?

Psalm 122, Acts 14:1-15:35

1. What does it mean that Paul saw that the man who had been lame from birth had faith to be healed? What can we learn from this man's faith?
2. Paul and Barnabas are mistaken for gods. How can we apply their response in our own lives when we experience excessive praise?
3. "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved" (Acts 15:1). What burdens do people place on others today saying "unless you..." you cannot be saved? What can we learn about how to handle these burdens from James and the rest of the Jerusalem Council?
4. What steps were taken to sort out the issue of circumcision in Acts 15? What does this teach us about disagreements on doctrinal issues within the church?

Psalm 123, Acts 15:36-16:40, 2 Kings 9-10

1. How did the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas in Acts 15 differ from the disagreement settled at the Jerusalem Council? How can we work to not let personal disagreements hinder our work for the Lord?
2. How does the transformation of the jailer in Acts 16 demonstrate the power of the gospel to change lives?
3. In 2 Kings 9, why do you think Elisha chose Jehu to be king? How do Jehu's officers respond to Jehu's anointing? What does this illustrate about leadership and followership?
4. In 2 Kings 10, why do you think Jehu chose to destroy Baal worship the way he did? Why do you think he failed to get rid of all idolatry within Israel?

Psalm 124, 2 Kings 11-16

1. How is divine justice illustrated in 2 Kings 11, particularly with the downfall of Athaliah?
2. In what ways does the story of Joash's survival demonstrate the preservation of the line of David, ultimately the line of Jesus?
3. What is the significance of the miracle in the tomb of Elisha in 2 Kings 13?
4. What were the differences in leadership and outcomes of leadership of the different kings of Israel and Judah? How does the constant change in leadership impact Israel and Judah?

Psalm 125, 2 Kings 17-21

- 1.** In 2 Kings 17, in what ways did the Israelites forsake God? What were the consequences? How can we protect ourselves from engaging in idol worship like the Israelites?
- 2.** How did Hezekiah's actions demonstrate his faith in 2 Kings 18 and 19?
- 3.** What did Isaiah's prophecies do for Hezekiah in 2 Kings 19 and 20?
- 4.** How did each of Hezekiah's prayers demonstrate the power of prayer? What can we learn from them for our own prayer lives?

Psalm 126, 2 Kings 22-25, Ephesians 1

- 1.** How does Josiah's response to the Book of the Law in 2 Kings 22 reflect his relationship with God?
- 2.** How does Josiah try to rid Judah of idolatry? Why does God's judgment remain on Judah despite Josiah's reforms?
- 3.** What can we learn about the consequences of disobedience to God from 2 Kings 25?
- 4.** What does it mean to be chosen in Christ "before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight" (Ephesians 1:4)?

Psalm 127, Ephesians 2:1-5:2

- 1.** What does it mean to be saved by God's grace as Paul describes in Ephesians 2 and 3? How can you respond to God's grace in practical ways?
- 2.** How do you understand the mystery that Paul describes in Ephesians 3:1-6? In what ways does this impact the church?
- 3.** What does it mean to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1)? In what practical ways can you strive to live like that?
- 4.** What do you think Paul means when he says "do not give the devil a foothold" (Ephesians 4:27)? How do we follow this instruction?

Psalm 128, Ephesians 5:3-6:24, Deuteronomy 1

1. How do you understand your role as a “child of light” (Ephesians 5:8)?
2. How does Paul’s analogy of a husband and wife as Christ’s relationship with the church impact your understanding of marriage? How does it impact your understanding of Christ’s relationship with the church?
3. Reflect on Ephesians 6:10-20. Which piece of the armor of God do you feel you need most in your life? Why?
4. In Deuteronomy 1, why did Moses choose this time to remind the Israelites of where they have been?

Psalm 129, Deuteronomy 2-6

1. What is the significance of the Israelites wandering for 38 years before crossing Zered Valley? Why do you think Moses reminds the Israelites of this?
2. What does Moses' leadership demonstrate about his relationship with God? What can we learn from this?
3. In Deuteronomy 4, we see God's passion for the fidelity of Israel. What are you jealous about? Zealous about? What matters most to you in matters of faith and loyalty? How do you distinguish a proper zeal from personal anger?
4. Why do you think Moses reminds the Israelites about the Ten Commandments at this point in their journey? In what ways did they need to be reminded of them?

Psalms 130, Deuteronomy 7-12

- 1.** In Deuteronomy 7, what does God driving out the other nations illustrate about his relationship with Israel? What promises does God make the Israelites if they obey him?
- 2.** How does Moses remind the Israelites of the discipleship of God throughout their journey? In what ways has God been discipling you?
- 3.** In Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Moses says “ And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?” What do you think this means of the Lord’s requirements for you today? Are there areas of these requirements that seem more challenging to you?
- 4.** Why do you think Moses reminds the Israelites that it was with their own eyes that they saw the works of God (Deuteronomy 11:7)?

Psalm 131, Deuteronomy 13:1-15:18, Mark 11:1-12:12, Psalm 132

1. Why do you think God would allow for the presence of false prophets and dreamers among the Israelites (Deuteronomy 13)? Why do you think he would allow their prediction to come true?
2. In what ways do we see God's holiness reflected in the restrictions he set for the Israelites?
3. In Mark 11, what do we learn about Jesus from the event with the fig tree? Why do you think Jesus used this example to talk about faith?
4. What do you think Jesus wanted us to take away from the parable of the tenants in Mark 12?