



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.

## Mark 12:13-13:13

1. In Mark 12:17, Jesus said, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” What can we learn about our own civic responsibility from this teaching?
2. Why are the commandments to love God and love your neighbors the greatest commandments?
3. How is your understanding of giving impacted by the widow’s offering and Jesus’ response to her offering?
4. What does it mean to “stand firm to the end” (Mark 13:13)? How can we prepare our faith now for the end times?

**Psalm 133, Mark 13:14-14:42**

- 1.** Jesus instructs us to wait and watch in Mark 13. In what ways can we practice waiting and watching?
- 2.** What can we learn about faith and sacrifice from the woman anointing Jesus in Mark 14?
- 3.** Reflect on the last supper. How can Jesus sharing the last supper with those closest to him, including the one who will betray him, impact how we approach communion?
- 4.** In what ways might the disciples' sleepiness resemble believers' spiritual sleepiness today? What measures can we take so we do not fall asleep when the Lord asks us to pray or act?

**Psalm 134, Mark 14:43-15:47**

1. Have you ever denied Jesus as Peter did? How so?
2. What can we learn from Jesus' silence as Pilate accused him?
3. What is the significance of the temple curtain being torn when Jesus died?
4. Why does Jesus cry out to God with the first verse of Psalm 22 on the cross? What does this signify? Have you ever felt like God has forsaken you?

## Mark 16, Acts 17:1-18:22

1. When the angel speaks to the women in Mark 16, why do you think he specifically mentions Peter?
2. How does the reaction to Paul and Silas preaching about the Messiah in Thessalonica demonstrate the threat the gospel can pose to the ruling order of culture, society, and government?
3. Why do you think the Bereans were more receptive to hearing the gospel?
4. Paul calls the people of Athens “ignorant of the very thing you worship” (Acts 17:23) and then goes on to explain who God is and what God has done. In what ways are we like the people of Athens? In what ways are we ignorant about God?

**Psalm 135, Acts 18:23-20:38**

- 1.** How can we learn from Apollos' humility and willingness to learn and improve his service to God in Acts 18?
- 2.** What does the baptism of the disciples in Acts 18 and 19 teach us about the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- 3.** What lessons can we glean from the story of the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19?
- 4.** Paul is continually doing miracles. In what ways is the gospel validated by the miracles he performed?

**Psalm 136, Acts 21:1-26, 1 Chronicles 10-13**

- 1.** What lessons can we extract from Paul obeying God's will at any cost?
- 2.** In contrast to Paul's obedience in Acts 21, we see the consequence of Saul's disobedience to God in 1 Chronicles 10. How does 1 Chronicles 10 demonstrate God's sovereignty and the importance of obeying his commands?
- 3.** How do we see God's plan through David's story from a shepherd in a field, ascended to the throne as king of Israel?
- 4.** What are the attributes of the warriors who joined David? Are any of those attributes ones you want to emulate in your spiritual life today?



## Psalm 137, 1 Chronicles 14-18

1. After David's anointing as king, how do his actions demonstrate his faith?
2. What can we learn about the communal aspect of worship from the community's role in the preparation and celebration of the journey of the ark?
3. What attributes of God are portrayed in David's song of praise in 1 Chronicles 16?
4. David plans to build a temple for God, but God instead shares that he will build a house for David (1 Chronicles 17:10). Have there been times when your plans have been superseded by God's plans? What was your response?

**Psalm 138, 1 Chronicles 19-23 and 28:1-29:20**

- 1.** What can we learn about David's leadership and the provision of the Lord in 1 Chronicles 19-20?
- 2.** Why do you think taking a census was sinful in 1 Chronicles 21?
- 3.** In what ways do God's justice and mercy come across in 1 Chronicles 21? Are these examples consistent with your understanding of God?
- 4.** In 1 Chronicles 22, David discusses how he wanted to build a temple for God. Why was he not allowed to? How did David handle this word from the Lord?

**Psalm 139, 1 Chronicles 29:21-30, Galatians 1:1-3:14**

- 1.** Paul is adamant about the purity of the gospel. In what ways can you ensure the gospel remains pure when there are various interpretations, teachings, and doctrines?
- 2.** Paul recounts his spiritual journey from zealous Jew to passionate preacher of the gospel. How are God's power and grace evident in his story?
- 3.** What do you think Paul's statement to Peter, "if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" (Galatians 2:21) means? Why is it significant?
- 4.** Paul argues for justification solely by faith. What does this mean for our salvation?

**Psalm 140, Galatians 3:15-5:26**

1. What does it mean when Paul says, “the law was our guardian” (Galatians 3:24)? What does this mean for us today?
2. What does Paul think the relationship between faith and law is? How does this reconcile with your understanding of faith and law?
3. What does being an heir of God entail (Galatians 4:7)?
4. How do you understand freedom in Christ based on Galatians chapter 5?

## Galatians 6, John 1

1. What does it look like to restore a person gently as Paul instructs to do in Galatians chapter 6?
2. How is your understanding of Jesus shaped by him as the Word?
3. In this chapter of John Jesus is referred to as the “light of all mankind” (v. 4), the “Lamb of God” (v.29), “Rabbi” (v.37), the “Messiah” (v.41), the “Son of God” (v.49), and the “king of Israel” (v. 49). What do each of these titles mean to you? Is there a title among these that you prefer?
4. What does it mean that “we have seen his glory” (John 1:14)?

**Psalm 141, John 2:1-4:15**

- 1.** Why do you think Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine?
- 2.** How is your view of church and worship impacted by Jesus' zeal for his Father's house?
- 3.** How does Nicodemus' conversation with Jesus impact your understanding of salvation?
- 4.** What does "living water" mean to you (John 4:10)?

**Psalm 142, John 4:16-6:15, Psalm 143**

- 1.** What does it mean to worship God in Spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)?
- 2.** Why do you think Jesus chose to heal on the Sabbath?
- 3.** How do the testimonies about Jesus impact your faith? Has anyone's testimony in your own life impacted your faith?
- 4.** How is your understanding of God's provision impacted by Jesus feeding the 5000?