

DIS COV ERY

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scriptureunion
HELPING PEOPLE MEET GOD EVERY DAY

EXTRA

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 *Discovery*. 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.

1 Samuel 2-4

- 1.** In Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2, what characteristics of God does she praise?

- 2.** What can we learn from the disobedience of Eli's sons?

- 3.** Samuel did not know that the Lord was calling him until Eli instructed him. How can you discern God's voice in your life?

- 4.** Why do you think God allowed for the ark of God to be captured?

Psalms 144, 1 Samuel 6-12

- 1.** What is the importance of repentance for the whole nation of Israel in 1 Samuel 7?

- 2.** Why did Israel demand a king? How does this reflect their relationship with God?

- 3.** Why do you think Saul chose not to share with his uncle about Samuel anointing him as king?

- 4.** What was the significance of Saul cutting the oxen into pieces and sending them throughout Israel? Why do you think “the terror of the Lord fell on the people” (1 Samuel 11:7)?

Psalm 145, 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1

1. What does Paul mean when he contrasts knowledge and love in 1 Corinthians 8?
2. Paul instructs the church in Corinth, “Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak” (1 Corinthians 8:9). How can you make sure that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to someone else?
3. Paul compares the life of a person following Christ to a race. What does it mean to you to “run in such a way as to get the prize” (1 Corinthians 9:24)?
4. How can you do “all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31)?

Psalm 146, 1 Corinthians 11:2-13:13

1. How should we approach the practice of the Lord's Supper in light of Paul's warnings in 1 Corinthians 11?
2. How can we celebrate different spiritual gifts of the same Spirit?
3. What does diversity in the body of Christ look like in your context?
4. How does the description of love in 1 Corinthians 13 challenge your practice of loving others?

Psalm 147, Acts 4:32-6:15

1. Why do you think the early believers shared everything? What can we do to promote unity in our own faith communities?

2. What can we learn from the account of Ananias and Sapphira?

3. Why do you think the angel of the Lord opened up the prison doors and brought the apostles out of prison?

4. Why was it important for the apostles to appoint deacons? Why do you think they felt they should devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word instead of distributing food?

Psalm 148, Acts 7-8

- 1.** How can our faith be influenced by Stephen's response to false accusations? Why does Stephen chronicle Israel's history as his defense?

- 2.** In what ways does Stephen's prayer as he was dying reflect his character?

- 3.** Why is it significant that Saul was present as Stephen was stoned?

- 4.** What can we learn from the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch?

Psalm 149, Judges 2, 4, 6:1-7:24

- 1.** Why do you think that the angel of the Lord came to talk to Israel?

- 2.** What are the possible reasons for why the new generation of Israelites did not know God nor the work he had done for them? How can we prevent this from happening in our own lives today?

- 3.** How can we learn from the Lord's answer to Gideon's fear in Judges 6 when faced with our own fear?

- 4.** How did Gideon's faith evolve from God first calling him to the defeat of the Midianites? Do you see any echoes of faith evolving like Gideon's in your own faith journey?

Psalms 150, Judges 8, 13-16

- 1.** Why do you think the Israelites turned away from God as soon as Gideon died?

- 2.** What can we learn about prayer from Manoah in Judges 13?

- 3.** Judges 16:20 says, “But he did not know that the Lord had left him.” Why did Samson not know that the Lord had left him?

- 4.** In what ways can we see God at work in the life and death of Samson?

Psalms 1, 1 Corinthians 14-16

1. How can we understand the spiritual gifts of prophecy and speaking in tongues through the lens of 1 Corinthians 14?
2. According to Paul, why is the resurrection of Christ so important to the Christian faith?
3. How can we make sure that our “labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58)?
4. Paul instructs the church in Corinth, “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). How can you practice these instructions?

Psalm 2, Micah 1-7

1. How does the description of God coming down and judging Israel in Micah 1 affect your understanding of God?
2. How can Micah 3 guide your view of leadership?
3. Micah 6:8 instructs on what the Lord requires, "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." How can you practically put these instructions into place in your life?
4. Read Micah 7:18-20. What can you learn about God from this passage?

Psalm 3, Isaiah 1-4

1. Read Isaiah 1:18-20. How has God's willingness to forgive you impacted your faith?
2. What is the meaning and importance of the Mountain of the Lord in Isaiah 2?
3. Where do we see the evidence of Jerusalem and Judah's sins through their actions in Isaiah 3?
4. What is "the Branch of the Lord" in Isaiah 4?

Psalm 4, John 12:12-19, Ruth 1:1-4:12

1. Why do you think that Ruth chose to go with Naomi?
2. Where do we see God's providence in Ruth's life?
Where have you seen God's providence in your own life?
3. What does the story of Ruth and Naomi teach us about faithfulness?
4. What can we learn from the virtue and character of Boaz?

Psalms 5-6, Ruth 4:13-22, Philippians 1:1-2:18

1. What can we learn from Paul's joy amidst suffering?

2. Philippians 1:6 says, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." How can you live out this truth? Does this shape your daily faith journey?

3. Philippians 1:21 says, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." What does this mean to you? How can it shape how you live?

4. Practically, how can we be of one mind as Paul has instructed in Philippians 2?