

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.

John 6:16-71, Ezekiel 1

1. Jesus tells the crowd that the work of God is “to believe in the one he has sent” (John 6:29). What does this mean to you? How does this relate to your understanding of the work God requires of you?
2. What is the significance of Jesus comparing himself to the manna the ancestors ate in the wilderness?
3. Why do you think many disciples stopped following Jesus after he reveals himself as the bread of life?
4. What is your understanding of Ezekiel's encounter with the likeness of the glory of the Lord? Does it parallel any spiritual encounters you have had?

Psalm 144, Ezekiel 2-7

1. What does Ezekiel eating the scroll symbolize? Why do you think Ezekiel was instructed to eat the scroll?

2. Ezekiel said, “So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.” Why do you think the scroll tasted sweet like honey? How can we apply the concept of the scroll tasting sweet like honey in our lives?

3. Ezekiel is given divine responsibility to be a watchman for Israel. How can we be watchmen in today’s context? In what ways are you given divine responsibility in your life?

4. What does Ezekiel teach us about the consequences of idolatry? How can we rid ourselves of idolatry in our own lives?

Psalm 145, Ezekiel 8-14

1. Throughout these passages in Ezekiel, where do we see God's righteous anger? How can we reconcile that with God's love and mercy?
2. How do you understand and interpret the mark that is given to those who are upset with the sin in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 9:4)?
3. What can we learn from Ezekiel crying out to God for Israel?
4. How is God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence on display in these first 14 chapters of Ezekiel? How can we apply what we learn about God here in our own lives?

Psalm 146, Ezekiel 15-19

1. Why does God compare Jerusalem to a faithless bride? Where do we see echoes of this in the New Testament?
2. How do you think the people of Jerusalem would have reacted to being compared to Amorites and Hittites and being called more sinful than Sodom and Samaria? What does this demonstrate about the sins of Jerusalem?
3. After explaining the destruction that Jerusalem deserves, God says “Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you” (Ezekiel 16:60). What does this indicate about God and his nature?
4. How does chapter 18 challenge the ideas of inherited sin and divine punishment? In what ways do these teachings impact the way you view sin in your family and your own responsibility?

Psalm 147, Ezekiel 20-25

1. What does the concept of Sabbath represent in chapter 20 of Ezekiel? How can this be applied in our own lives?
2. What does it mean that Jerusalem is like “the dross of silver” (Ezekiel 22:18)? What does this teach about the impurities in our own lives?
3. What can we learn from the allegory of the two sisters, Oholah and Oholibah, in Ezekiel 23?
4. Why do you think God forbid Ezekiel from mourning his wife’s death?

Psalm 148, Ezekiel 30, John 7:1-8:11

- 1.** In Ezekiel 30, what do you think the “Day of the Lord” indicates?

- 2.** Why do you think Jesus instructs the crowd, “Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own” (John 7:17)? In what ways is this instruction helpful for our own discernment of whether people are speaking from the authority of God or for their own purpose?

- 3.** Why do you think Nicodemus suggests hearing from Jesus before condemning him?

- 4.** How does Jesus’ dealing with the woman caught in adultery inform your understanding of Jesus’ approach to sin and judgment?

Psalm 149, John 8:12-9:23

1. How can Jesus declaring, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12) influence your daily life? What does it mean to you that you will never walk in darkness if you follow Jesus?

2. Why do you think Jesus says that the Jews claim God as their god and yet they do not know God? Was there ever a time in your life that you claimed to know God or thought you knew God only to later realize that you did not know God?

3. What is the significance of Jesus saying “I am” in reference to himself (John 8:58)?

4. What can we learn about sin and suffering from the disciples’ question and Jesus’ answer about the sin of the man born blind?

Psalms 150, John 9:24-11:16

1. Why do you think that the man born blind immediately believed that Jesus was the Son of Man? How is this different than the Pharisees' response to Jesus? Both the Pharisees and the man born blind were present for the conversation with Jesus. What does this teach us about every person's individual experience as they encounter Jesus?

2. What does the parable of the good shepherd and the sheep reveal to us about the relationship between Jesus and those that follow him?

3. Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). What does Jesus' voice sound like to you?

4. Why do you think many believed in Jesus where John had been baptizing in the early days (John 10:40)?

Psalms 1, John 11:17-57, Deuteronomy 15:19-18:22

1. What can we learn from the different responses of those who witnessed Lazarus' resurrection?
2. Why do you think God continually reminds the Israelites of "the place the Lord will choose"?
3. God says that the future king of Israel should "learn to revere the Lord his God" (Deuteronomy 17:19). How is the king supposed to learn to revere the Lord? How can you learn to revere the Lord?
4. What does it mean that the Lord is their inheritance? Given the importance of inheritance, why do you think that the inheritance for the Levites is the Lord?

Psalms 2, Deuteronomy 19-25

1. The Lord instructs repeatedly that the Israelites are to “purge the evil from among you.” Do you think this law applies to us today? If so, how can we purge the evil from within ourselves? If not, why not?
2. How does God’s instruction to dismiss people from war who are engaged or have planted a garden that hasn’t been harvested demonstrate God’s strength? How does this differ from the approach of other armies?
3. Why do you think a hanged man is cursed by God? Where do we see echoes of this in the New Testament?
4. Why do you think God gives the Israelites laws about not mixing things together (seeds in a field, animals for plowing, fabric in a garment)?

Psalm 3, Deuteronomy 26-30

1. What is the importance of offering the firstfruits of the land? How can we apply this practice to our lives today?
2. As the Israelites are getting closer to entering the promised land, why do you think that Moses keeps reminding them that God rescued them from Egypt?
3. How can we better understand the importance of individual responsibility and collective responsibility from the blessings and the curses that Moses gave?
4. Moses says that the Lord will “circumcise your hearts” (Deuteronomy 30:6). What does this mean?

Psalm 4, Deuteronomy 31-34, Jude

1. Why do you think God chose Joshua to be Moses' successor?

2. In Deuteronomy 32:9 Moses says, "For the Lord's portion is his people." What does this mean to you?

3. Why do you think God buried Moses?

4. Jude instructs the reader to stay in God's love by ,
"by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and
praying in the Holy Spirit" (Jude 1:20). What does it
mean to build yourselves up in your most holy faith?
How can you pray in the Holy Spirit?

Psalm 5-6, Acts 21:27-24:21

- 1.** In Acts 23:11 we learn that “the Lord stood near Paul and said, ‘Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.’” How can the Lord standing by and encouraging Paul encourage you in your own faith and sharing of the gospel?

- 2.** How is Paul’s obedience to God on display as he journeys to Jerusalem?

- 3.** What can we learn from Paul’s boldness of faith when faced with challenges, hostilities, and even danger?

- 4.** In Psalm 6, David expresses his woes and suffering, and he pleads with God for mercy. How does this reflect David’s understanding of God’s nature?