

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.

Philippians 2:19-4:23, Psalm 7, Exodus 12:1-13:16

1. Paul says he considers everything a loss for the sake of Christ in Philippians 3. What does this mean? How can you apply this to your own life?

2. How can you “press on toward the goal” (Philippians 3:14) as Paul instructs?

3. What does it mean to you that our citizenship is in heaven? How can this encourage you to live differently in your everyday life?

4. What does the first Passover teach us about God’s justice and mercy? What relevance does the Passover have in our lives today?

Psalm 8, Exodus 13:17-16:16

1. What do you think is the significance of the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire?
2. Why do you think that God hardened Pharaoh's heart?
3. What does the Israelites' song of praise demonstrate about their understanding of, and devotion to, God?
4. How does the Israelites' grumbling reflect their faith? How have you grumbled when God did not give you what you wanted?

Psalms 9, Exodus 16:17-30, John 12:20-13:38

- 1.** Do you see any parallels between the Israelites' journey in the desert and your own spiritual journey?

- 2.** How can you ensure that you do not love human praise more than praise from God, as Jesus warns against in John 12?

- 3.** Do you think Jesus' divinity made it easier or harder to be humble and wash the feet of his disciples? What lessons can we learn from Jesus washing his disciples' feet?

- 4.** How did knowing that one of his disciples was going to betray him affect Jesus?

Psalm 10, John 14:1-17:19

- 1.** How does Jesus say you will be able to tell who loves him? How is your life evidence of this? Is there an area of your life that needs to better show your love for Jesus?

- 2.** What is the fruit that Jesus says his followers will bear if they remain in him in John 15?

- 3.** What does it mean that the Spirit will guide you into all truth (John 16:13)? How have you experienced that?

- 4.** What do we learn in John 17:1-5 was Jesus' primary purpose? How can this influence our purpose?

Psalm 11, John 17:20-26, 1 Samuel 13, 15-17

- 1.** What does Jesus pray for all who will believe? Why do you think this is what he prays for?

- 2.** Why did Saul make a wrongful sacrifice in 1 Samuel 13? Have there been times that you have been impatient with God's timing?

- 3.** What was Samuel's mistake with choosing to sacrifice over obedience? Is there a time when you chose to follow what was expected of you rather than obedience?

- 4.** Why do you think God had Samuel anoint David while Saul was still king?

- 1.** How did Saul's jealousy affect him? How do you deal with jealousy in your own life?
- 2.** How can we turn from idols and serve the living and true God as the Thessalonians did? What idols are hardest for you to turn from?
- 3.** What does it mean to receive the Word of God as God's words and not as human words?
- 4.** How can we be encouraged by the Thessalonians staying true to their faith in the face of persecution?

**Psalms 13, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:28,
2 Thessalonians 1:1-3:5**

1. How can the second coming of Christ embolden us in our daily life and faith?
2. In Paul's final words in 1 Thessalonians, he instructs them to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances." Which of these instructions is hardest for you to keep? How can you practice it this week?
3. 2 Thessalonians 2 describes the man of lawlessness and the second coming of Jesus. What is the role of the man of lawlessness? What can we learn from Paul's description of the man of lawlessness and the end times?
4. How can you stand firm in your faith as Paul instructs in 2 Thessalonians 2:12-17?

**Psalms 14, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18,
Song of Solomon 1:1-7:9a**

1. How can you put into practice Paul's advice to "never tire of doing what is good" (2 Thessalonians 3:13)?
2. As Tanya Ferdinandusz indicated in the introduction to Song of Solomon in our *Discovery Bible* guide, 'All Scripture ... is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16). Why do you think the book, Song of Solomon, is in the Bible?
3. What can we learn from the relationship between the Shulamite woman and her beloved?
4. How can we, the church, better honor marriage? How can we better honor marriage in our relationships with our friends and our families?

Psalms 15, Song of Solomon 7:9b-8:14, Acts 9:1-10:8

1. Why do you think God chose Saul as his “chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel” (Acts 9:15)?
2. What was Ananias’ role in Saul’s conversion? What was the significance of this?
3. How did the disciples learn to trust Saul? How can we apply this lesson in our lives today?
4. What can we learn from Peter’s faith in healing Aeneas and raising Tabitha from the dead?

Psalm 16, Acts 10:9-12:19a

1. What can we learn about the revelation of God from the visions of Cornelius and Peter?
2. What is the significance of God pouring the Holy Spirit on the gentiles alongside the Jews? Why did the circumcised believers question Peter?
3. How can Barnabas' encouragement for the growing church inspire us to rejoice over the conversion of nonbelievers and the spiritual growth of believers?
4. How can Peter's sharing of the news of his miraculous escape from prison urge us to share about God's work in our lives? What work has God done in your life recently that you could share to encourage the faith of those around you?

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Psalm 18, Isaiah 7:10-10:4

1. What will be the consequences of Ahaz seeking help from Assyria rather than God?
2. What is the significance of Isaiah's son's name?
3. What can we learn from Isaiah's instructions to consult God and not mediums and spiritists? How is this relevant in contemporary times?
4. How has Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophesy in Isaiah 10?

Psalm 19, Isaiah 10:5-12:6

- 1.** How can we learn from the Assyrian attributing his victories to his own strength, wisdom, and understanding? How does the Lord respond to this arrogance?
- 2.** The Lord says that the Branch of Jesse “will delight in the fear of the Lord” (Isaiah 11:3). How can you “delight in the fear of the Lord”?
- 3.** How does the promise of God’s people returning from the four quarters of the earth encourage your faith and provide hope for the future?
- 4.** What imagery is used to describe salvation for God’s people in Isaiah 12? How does this resonate with you and your own faith journey?