

INTRODUCTION

Scripture Union-USA has active Bible Guide members in all fifty states. Both *Discovery* and *Encounter with God* are available in large print and audio. More than 1000 *Discovery* guides are printed for distribution in prisons each quarter.

It is SU's privilege to help people engage with God daily in Scripture and prayer! We seek and trust God to meet with our readers as they read, enabling them to know him better and encouraging them in their faith walk. In this final quarter of 2025, we pray that you will sense his presence in new and deeper ways and respond with greater confidence and zeal to serve him.

As the Israelites experience the first Passover, are liberated from Egypt, and journey toward the Promised Land, we will find much to apply to our present-day faith journeys in our **Exodus** passages and reflections.

Continuing **1 Samuel**, we will read about Saul's failure as Israel's king, contrasted with his son, Jonathan's trust in God. Following God's direction, Samuel will anoint the boy David king. As David faces trials, we are reminded that those God chooses are not exempt from difficulty, but they will always find him faithful.

Song of Solomon is a love story of a bride and bridegroom becoming one as husband and wife. Although he is never mentioned, we also see a picture of the deep and faithful love God has for his people.

Our reading in **Isaiah** will begin with a love song quite different from Solomon's. It will tell of God's people's faithlessness and his righteous judgment. However, through the prophet, we will see not only God's justice, but also the foretelling of salvation, not just for Jerusalem and Judah, but for us today. God remains faithful to his people forever!

In **Philippians**, Paul's letter will continue encouraging the young church to follow Christ's example in their relationships and purpose, live steadfastly as heaven's citizens, and trust God in every circumstance and for all things. These words still serve believers well in today's world.

Jesus' course is set for Jerusalem and the cross in this quarter's readings in **John**. He will enter the city hailed as a king, prepare his disciples for what he knows will come, and show his profound love and care in his high priestly prayer, not just for his disciples, but for all those who believe in him.

Paul had led Jews and gentiles to faith in Thessalonica, but circumstances had not given him time to establish the community of very new believers in their faith. He wrote to the **Thessalonians** in two epistles to encourage and instruct them, especially regarding Christ's return.

We will see God's transformative power as we read of Paul's remarkable conversion and Peter's vision for sharing the gospel enlarged to go beyond cultural and ethnic boundaries. The stories of both men in **Acts** remind us that God's love and salvation are offered to all.

SHARON SACKS, lead editor for *Discovery*, has long been involved in ministry, mentoring children and those young in faith, leading Bible studies, and writing for both children and adults. She has also worked in missions to serve workers in hard places of the world.

Scripture Union's Bible Reading Method

PRAY that God would speak to you from the Bible passage.

READ the Bible passage slowly and thoughtfully, perhaps more than once.

REFLECT on what you've read.

APPLY what you learn from the Bible to the situations in your life.

PRAY again, using your discoveries from the Bible to guide your prayers.