



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.

Psalms 7, Acts 24:22-28:31, Ezekiel 33-34

- 1.** How do you see God's protection in Paul's journey?
How has God protected you?
- 2.** What is the significance of Ezekiel's role as a watchman? Do you think this role of watchman applies to Christians today?
- 3.** God warns against bad shepherds in Ezekiel 34. How did these shepherds fail to take care of their flock?
- 4.** What does it mean to you to have God as our shepherd?

Psalm 8, Ezekiel 35:1-40:47

- 1.** Why do you think God utilizes destruction and desolation? Why do you think he repeatedly reminds Edom “Then you will know that I am the Lord” (Ezekiel 35:4, 9, 15)?

- 2.** Reflect on Ezekiel 36:22-30. Have you experienced God giving you a new heart or putting a new spirit within you (Ezekiel 36:26)? How so?

- 3.** How does Ezekiel’s vision of a valley of dry bones impact your understanding of God’s plan for Israel? How does it demonstrate God’s omnipotence?

- 4.** How does Ezekiel 38-40 demonstrate God’s sovereignty? How can we understand the prophecy against Gog?

Psalm 9, Ezekiel 40:48-46:24

- 1.** Why do you think the descriptions of the temple are so detailed? What do you think these descriptions would mean to the Israelites who were living in exile?
- 2.** Where do you see holiness and separation of the holy represented in these chapters? How can this apply to our lives today?
- 3.** Reflect on Ezekiel 43:1-9. What do you think it would mean to the Israelites that God was returning to dwell in their midst?
- 4.** Ezekiel sees God's glory in Ezekiel 43. What would it mean to you to experience God's glory? Have you ever experienced glimpses of God's glory?

Psalm 10, Ezekiel 47-48, John 12:1-36

1. What does the image of the river from the temple symbolize? What does the healing power of the river indicate?
2. Why do you think the city is given the name “THE LORD IS THERE” (Ezekiel 48:35)?
3. What can we learn from Mary anointing Jesus?
4. Jesus instructs those listening to him to become “children of light” in John 12:36. How can you become children of light? What does this title mean to you?

Psalms 11, John 12:37-14:24

- 1.** In John 12:43, he says “for they loved human praise more than praise from God.” In what ways have you put human praise above praise from God?
- 2.** How does Peter’s reaction to Jesus washing his feet demonstrate his understanding of Jesus’ mission? What can we learn from Jesus washing the feet of his disciples?
- 3.** What is your understanding of the devil prompting Judas to betray Jesus (John 13:2) and Satan entering Judas when he ate the bread (John 13:27)?
- 4.** In John 14:22, Judas (not Iscariot) asked “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” After reading Jesus’ response in verse 23, do you think Jesus revealed himself to the world or only to his disciples? Why?

Psalm 12, John 14:25-16:24

- 1.** Reflect on the analogy of the vine and the branches in John 15:1-17. What does it mean that God cuts off the branches that bear no fruit? What does it mean that he prunes the ones that bear fruit so that they become more fruitful?

- 2.** How can you abide in Jesus? How can you remain in his love? What does this look like in your everyday life?

- 3.** Jesus warns his disciples about persecution they will face. How can this help prepare you for challenges and persecution you may face as followers of Christ?

- 4.** How do you understand the role of the Holy Spirit? How do chapters 14-16 impact your understanding of the Holy Spirit?

Psalms 13, John 16:25-17:26, Daniel 1:1-2:23

- 1.** How do chapters 16 and 17 of John shape your understanding of the trinitarian relationship of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

- 2.** Jesus prays for his disciples and future disciples to be sanctified in truth (John 17). What does this mean to you? How are you sanctified?

- 3.** How do we see God's favor in the story of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah? What can we learn about God's character from this?

- 4.** Daniel prays that God would reveal the mystery of the king, and he asks his friends to pray with him. What can we learn from this?

Psalm 14, Daniel 2:24-6:28

- 1.** Daniel tells King Nebuchadnezzar that “there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries” (Daniel 2:28). What does this mean to you? Has God revealed any mysteries to you?

- 2.** Reflect on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being thrown into the blazing furnace. What is the significance of the fourth man in the fire (Daniel 3:25)? How is it that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not even smell like fire when they were taken out?

- 3.** Why do you think Daniel refused the king’s gifts in Daniel 5:17? Is this a lesson that can be applied in your daily life?

- 4.** Daniel 6:23 discusses Daniel coming out of the lion’s den and it says, “no wound was found on him, because he trusted in his God.” How do you understand this? How can we learn from Daniel’s faith?

Psalm 15, Daniel 7:1-11:1

- 1.** Who is the Ancient of Days? What does his role in Daniel's vision signify?

- 2.** How can we understand Daniel's reactions to his visions? Is there anything we can learn from his response to the visions God gave him?

- 3.** What can we learn about God from Daniel's prayer to him in Daniel 9? What can we learn about Daniel?

- 4.** Daniel is strengthened in his weakness in Daniel 10. The angel stood him on his feet and touched his lips so he could speak. How does this demonstrate God's ability to equip us in our weakness? In what ways has God equipped you when you felt weak or not ready?

1. Discuss the detailed prophecy in Daniel 11. How can this enhance your faith and trust in God's sovereignty and faithfulness?
2. In what ways can the final verse of Daniel be an encouragement to you?
3. Peter tells us our faith is more precious than gold and thus must be refined. How has your faith been "refined by fire" as Peter says in 1 Peter 1:7?
4. What does it mean to be holy? What does a holy Christian life look like?

Psalm 17, 1 Peter 2:4-4:11

1. In what ways does 1 Peter 2:12 challenge you? Have you ever glorified God because of someone else's good deeds?

2. Peter quotes Isaiah 53:6 "you were like sheep going astray" but goes on to say "but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." What does this mean to you?

3. Reflect on a time that you suffered for doing good. How does 1 Peter 3 speak to that experience?

4. How can you use your gifts to serve others? What gifts has the Lord given you?

Psalm 18, 1 Peter 4:12-5:14, 2 Peter 1:1-2:10a

- 1.** In what areas of your life are you in leadership? How can 1 Peter 5 help direct your leadership?

- 2.** 1 Peter 5 instructs us to resist the devil. What does this mean to you? How do you do this?

- 3.** Why do you think Peter encourages the virtues that he does in 2 Peter 1:5-7? Are any of these virtues harder for you to express? If so, why?

- 4.** How can you identify false teachers and false prophets? Why is it important to do so?

Psalms 19, 2 Peter 2:10b-3:18

1. How can we understand Peter's teachings on divine judgment for false teachers? How can these teachings help us to understand God's judgment and mercy more clearly?
2. How can we prepare ourselves for the Day of the Lord in our daily lives?
3. Peter instructs us that time for God is not like time for us and that, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). How can this encourage you in your faith? Who is someone that you are waiting for to come to repentance? How can you be a light to them this week?
4. What are practical ways that you can "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18)?