



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.

Psalm 20, Matthew 3:1-5:37

- 1.** As you read about Jesus' baptism, reflect on your own if you have been baptized. In what ways was Jesus' baptism distinct to all other baptisms?

- 2.** Why do you think the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted? How is this action (leading to be tempted) different from the Spirit tempting Jesus? What might it have looked like for angels to tend to Jesus after Satan left him? Why do you think they did?

- 3.** Think through the sequence of events in Matthew 3-4. Jesus was baptized, tempted by Satan, and then begins preaching. What do you think is the reason for this sequence? Have you seen this sequence of spiritual growth play out in your own life in any area?

- 4.** Read Matthew 5:17-20. What is your understanding of this passage? What does it mean that Jesus came to fulfill the law?

Psalm 21, Matthew 5:38-7:6

- 1.** Reflect on Matthew 5:43-48. Is there any part of this that is challenging for you? In what ways can you better love your enemies this week?

- 2.** How can we learn to pray from Jesus' prayer (The Lord's Prayer)? How can prayer in your daily life better reflect Jesus' way of prayer?

- 3.** How can you store up treasures in heaven? Jesus says "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Based on where your treasure is, where is your heart right now?

- 4.** In what ways can you put into practice Jesus' teachings on worry? How can you practice having faith that God knows you and will provide what you need?

Psalms 22, Matthew 7:7-29, 2 Chronicles 1-3

1. Re-read Matthew 7:21-23. What is your understanding of this passage? Is this passage challenging for you to accept? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think God was with Solomon and made him exceedingly great (2 Chronicles 1:1)? Why do you think this detail was included in Scripture?
3. Why do you think Solomon prayed for wisdom and knowledge? What does this show about him?
4. What do you think is the reason that God gave Solomon such detailed instructions for how to construct the temple?

Psalms 23, 2 Chronicles 4:1-9:12

- 1.** Why did God allow Solomon to build the temple, and not David?
- 2.** What is the significance and importance of the completion of the temple and the arrival of the ark of the covenant in the temple?
- 3.** Reflect on 2 Chronicles 5:13-14. What does this tell us about God's presence and glory?
- 4.** Re-read Solomon's prayer of dedication in 2 Chronicles 6:12-42. Then read the Lord's response in 2 Chronicles 7:12-22. Is there a part of this prayer or God's response that sticks out to you? How does this correspondence reflect Solomon's relationship with God?

Psalms 24, 2 Chronicles 9:13-12:16, Romans 1:1-17

1. How did Solomon use his wisdom and wealth during his rule?
2. What can we learn about Solomon's reign from the request of Israel to Rehoboam?
3. Why did the Levites move to Jerusalem? What is the spiritual significance of their move?
4. In what ways have you demonstrated mutual encouragement in faith with other believers as Paul hopes for in Romans 1:12?

Psalm 25, Romans 1:18-3:31

1. What does God's wrath look like according to Romans 1?
2. How can you better understand God's judgment from Romans 2?
3. What does it mean that the unfaithfulness of the Jews cannot nullify the faithfulness of God (Romans 3:3-4)?
4. How can the law require faith, as Paul says in Romans 3:27?

Psalm 26, Romans 4-6

1. How do you understand Abraham's faith being counted as righteousness before his circumcision (Romans 4)? What implications can this have for your faith?

2. How can you be empowered by Paul's instructions to "glory in our sufferings" (Romans 5:3)?

3. Reflect on Romans 5:8; sit in the weight of this powerful verse. While this is a very commonly quoted verse, how can it reframe our thinking on how we live out our faith?

4. What does it mean to "count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11)?

Psalm 27, Romans 7, 8

1. How can you understand being released from the law through the analogy of marriage in Romans 7:1-6?

2. Can you relate to Paul's struggle in Romans 7:15?

3. How can knowing that the Spirit lives in you help you feel equipped and ready to share the gospel with those around you—through both words and actions?

4. What steps can you take toward living in the hope of the glory to come?

Psalm 28, 2 Chronicles 13:1-19:3

1. What can we learn from the victory of the people of Judah recorded in 2 Chronicles 13? Are there areas in your life where you need to rely on God more fully (v. 18)?
2. How can Asa's leadership in the beginning of his rule encourage how you lead? Are there ways you can emulate his spiritual fervor and focus?
3. How does Asa's reaction to Hanani indicate his change of heart and spiritual journey (2 Chronicles 16)?
4. Why did Jehoshaphat make an alliance with Ahab? How did that affect his judgment?

Psalms 29, 2 Chronicles 19:4-23:21

1. What can we learn from Jehoshaphat's prayer and the Lord's response through the prophesy of Jahaziel in 2 Chronicles 20?
2. What is the role of praise in 2 Chronicles 20? How can praise help in times of struggle?
3. How can we understand God's faithfulness in his keeping of the Davidic Covenant despite constant rebellion of the house of David? How can this encourage our faith?
4. How does Jehoiada demonstrate bravery and fear of the Lord in 2 Chronicles 23? How does this contrast with the actions of Athaliah?

Psalms 30, 2 Chronicles 24-27, Matthew 8:1-22

1. Why do you think Amaziah decided to dismiss the Israelite troops? How does this contrast with his spiritual downfall later?
2. Reflect on Uzziah's reign. How did Uzziah's pride lead to his downfall?
3. How can we learn from Jotham's obedience to God despite corruption among the people in 2 Chronicles 27?
4. What can you learn from the faith of the centurion in Matthew 8? How can you emulate this type of faith this week?

Psalms 31, Matthew 8:23-9:26

1. How can we find comfort in Jesus' power over nature and circumstances after reflecting on Jesus calming the storm?
2. What can we learn about the types of people that Jesus calls from the calling of Matthew? What does it say about Jesus' mission?
3. What can the healing of the bleeding woman teach us about faith?
4. How can we be inspired to remain hopeful in situations that seem hopeless, based on the resurrection of the synagogue leader's daughter? How can this story be a reminder to seek and trust God even when other people do not understand why we seek and trust him?

Psalm 32, John 18:1-27

1. Reflect on Jesus being arrested in John 18:1-14. Take a moment to think through this Scripture from Jesus' perspective. Then take a moment to think through this Scripture from the perspective of one of the 11 disciples (excluding Judas). How does your understanding of this passage change when you know all that happens to Jesus versus when you do not?
2. Can you relate to Peter's denial of Christ in your own life? How can reading Peter's story and/or reflecting on your own experience encourage you to be more bold in your faith?