



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 20-21, Matthew 9:27-34

- 1.** Reflect on the resurrection and the empty tomb. Alleluia! As Christians, the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. How does that empower you to live differently?
- 2.** What does it mean that the other disciple (John) “saw and believed” (John 20:8)? Why do you think seeing the empty tomb with the folded linen cloths made him believe?
- 3.** Why do you think Jesus told Mary, “Do not hold onto me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father” (John 20:17)?
- 4.** Consider John 21:25. What are the things Jesus did in Scripture that most stand out to you? What are the things Jesus has done in your own life that most stand out to you?

- 1.** Reflect on Matthew 9:37-38. What does this mean to you? How can you make it a priority this week to pray as Jesus instructs here?
- 2.** Jesus gives his disciples authority to “drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness” (Matthew 10:1). What do you think this authority means?
- 3.** Why do you think Jesus instructs his disciples to be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves? How can we learn to do as such?
- 4.** Jesus tells his disciples, “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:37-38). Why is this an important instruction for Jesus’ disciples? Why is this an important instruction for us today?

Psalm 34, Song of Solomon 2:3-8:14

1. How can we look at the book of Song of Solomon as a celebration of marriage as God intended it?
2. What lessons can we learn from the mutual respect and love between the man and the woman? How can this be demonstrated in modern relationships?
3. Song of Solomon is not a book that we often preach on, or even study. Why do you think that is? Why do you think Song of Solomon was included in the Jewish canon and eventually in the Christian canon that became the Bible?
4. How does the support of the friends throughout this book contribute to the love between the man and the woman? What can we learn from the friends in this book?

Psalm 36, 2 Chronicles 32:24-36:23, Romans 9:1-5

WEEK 6 5/3-5/9

- 1.** How can the life of King Manasseh remind us of God's propensity to forgive? How do the different responses of King Manasseh and King Amon lead to different results?
- 2.** What was the reaction of King Josiah to hearing the Book of the Law? What does that demonstrate about the character of King Josiah?
- 3.** How do you think Judah could have avoided being captured and burned?
- 4.** Reflect on 2 Chronicles 36:15-16. What attributes of God do you see demonstrated here and throughout the chapter?

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Psalm 37, Romans 9:6-11:24

WEEK 7 5/10-5/16

1. What does Paul mean when he explains that it is “not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring” (Romans 9:8)? What implications does this have for you?
2. How do you pursue righteousness by faith (Romans 9:30)? How can you ensure you are not pursuing righteousness by works like the Israelites (Romans 9:31-32)?
3. Reflect on Romans 10:9-13. This is likely a familiar passage to you but take time to think of it like you are encountering the gospel for the first time. How can you pray this week (and right now) for those you know who have not found salvation in Jesus Christ?
4. What can we learn about God in Paul’s description of God’s sternness and kindness (Romans 11:11-24)? Is there a part of this passage that is hard for you to digest? Why or why not?

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Psalm 38, Romans 11:25-14:9

- 1.** Read the doxology of Romans 11:33-36. What can you learn about God from this? What attributes of God are evident here?
- 2.** How can you be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2)? What does this look like in your everyday life?
- 3.** In what ways can you “put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light” as Paul instructs in Romans 13:12?
- 4.** What would it look like to model accepting “the one whose faith is weak” (Romans 14:1)?

Acts 2, Romans 14:10-15:33

1. Today, we are most likely not dealing with people disagreeing on whether or not food is clean, however, we are likely dealing with judgment of other Christians in a different capacity. How can we understand Romans 14 in this light? Is there an area of Christianity or a conviction that you have that you are holding higher than faith in Christ? Is it discounting your ability to believe that those who disagree with you have faith? If you are unsure, spend a few moments in prayer.
2. What does it mean to please your neighbors for their good (Romans 15:2)?
3. How does Scripture provide you with encouragement and hope? Where do you see endurance in Scripture?
4. Why do you think Paul cites Scripture from the Old Testament to make his point stronger to the gentiles? What is the significance of this?

Psalm 39, Romans 16, Joel 1-3, Genesis 1:1-23

- 1.** In Joel 2:13, the Lord identifies himself, as he often does throughout the Old Testament, as “the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.” Why do you think this is how God describes himself?
- 2.** Reflect on the prophecy of Joel 2:28-32. How is this fulfilled in the New Testament? How can your faith be encouraged by reading this prophecy that was written hundreds of years before fulfillment?
- 3.** Where do we see divine justice in the book of Joel? How do you think the people of Judah would have understood this book?
- 4.** The first 23 verses of Genesis is probably a section of Scripture you have read many times. What part resonated with you this week?

Psalm 40, Genesis 1:24-6:22

1. What does it mean to you that you have been created in the image and likeness of God? How can reflecting on that truth change your view of yourself?
2. Why do you think the first time God calls anything holy in Scripture (and the first time the word holy appears) is in relation to resting on the seventh day (Sabbath)?
3. Why does the Lord have different reactions to Cain's offering and Abel's offering? What can we learn from this?
4. Genesis 6:22 says, "Noah did everything just as God commanded him." How can we learn from the obedience of Noah?

Psalm 41, Genesis 7:1-11:9

1. Why do you think the Lord was pleased with the aroma of Noah's offering in Genesis 8:21?
2. What similarities and differences do you see between God's instructions to Noah and his family in Genesis 9:1-7 and his instructions to Adam and Eve?
3. What can we learn from the contrasting reactions of Ham, Shem, and Japheth in Genesis 9:20-27?
4. How does the tower of Babel have echoes of Adam and Eve in the garden? In what ways does God's response to both instances demonstrate his sovereignty?

