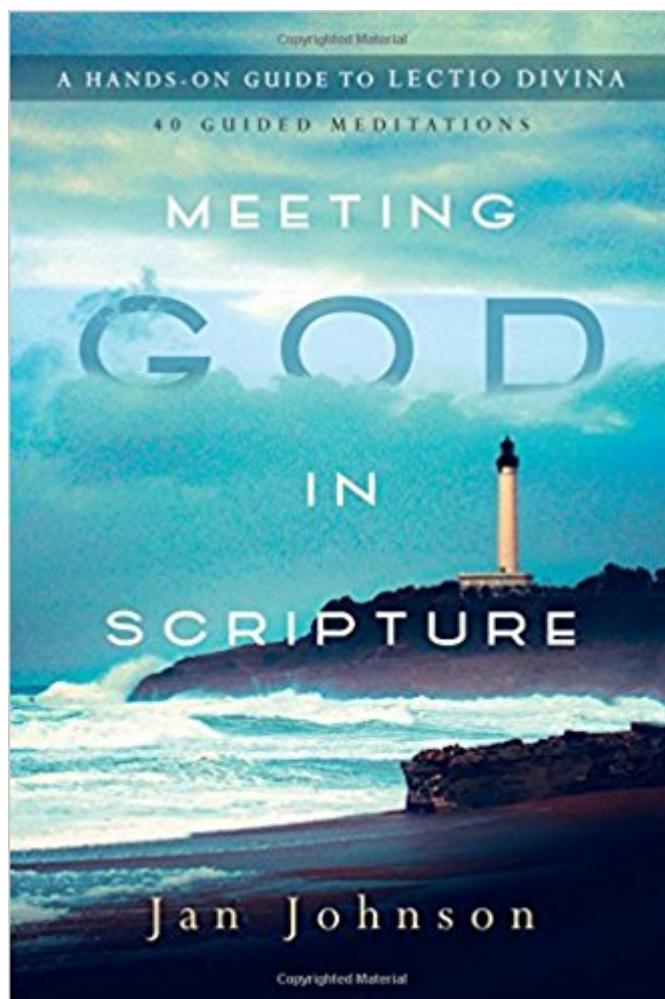


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# Meeting God In Scripture: A Hands-On Guide To Lectio Divina



## **Synopsis**

Jesus is speaking to us here and now. Lectio divina is a practice of Scripture reading that treats the Bible not only as a text to be examined, but also as the living Word of God spoken anew to us. Experienced Bible teacher Jan Johnson gives us forty Scripture meditations, organized topically, giving us the tools we need to practice lectio divina on our own. Each meditation can be used both individually and in group settings, and includes an introductory space of quiet along with an optional preparatory exercise; the full text of a passage from Scripture with explanations of unusual or important words, and with cultural and historical background as needed; cues to help us enter the text; space to contemplate the passage, respond to God in prayer and rest in his presence; and an exercise to "try on" one of the main ideas of the passage in our daily lives. Meeting God in Scripture moves us beyond merely understanding what the text meant in its original context to a direct spiritual encounter with Christ.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Jan Johnson has a particular anointed genius for guiding people into interaction with the living God through his Word. Her winsome, accessible lectio divina exercises have been invaluable to the students at the RenovarÃ© Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation, and it's exciting to see her guides become more widely available. Meeting God in Scripture is a real gift for any of us who desire to spend more time withâ •and deepen our friendship withâ •the triune God." (Carolyn Arends, director of education, RenovarÃ©) "Jan does something few contemporary lectio guides do: she

preserves the discipline of study that was part of the ancient tradition of lectio divina by providing historical and cultural background for the chosen texts. Her selection of passages is nothing short of brilliantâ •theologically central, experientially deep, and comprehensively transformational. This guide can be the spark that causes the Word of God to be a fire in your bones once again." (Howard Baker, assistant professor of Christian formation, Denver Seminary)"In her writing as in person, Jan Johnson finds ordinary ways to guide us into extraordinary experiencesâ •into the very presence of Godâ •with an attentive ear for what God may have to say. What a personal yet practical way to bring the practice of lectio divina into daily life! The coaching Jan provides is spot-on soul guidance and will most certainly help readers greatly increase their capacity for meeting God in Scripture." (Mindy Caligire, founder, Soul Care)"Finally, a book about engaging Scripture for personal and group transformation has arrived! Jan Johnson has done a great service for evangelicals who have lost an imagination for reading the Bible outside of study or quick inspiration. Meeting God in Scripture is a beautiful reclaiming of lectio divina for our time. Read, ponder, pray, and meditate on the beauty of Scripture as described in these pages and prepare to be changed!" (Keith J. Matthews, professor of spiritual formation and leadership, Azusa Pacific Seminary)"What a great titleâ •and what a great book! God delights to meet with his children in Scripture, and if you're ready to try out a different approach, let Jan Johnson, an experienced and trusted Bible teacher, lead the way with this sound and practical guide. You'll have the opportunity to meditate on thematically arranged passages from various sections of the whole Bible. I really appreciated the just-enough background comments that helped illuminate key words or concepts so that I could put aside immediate questions and enter more fully into the passage. The structured framework and thoughtful questions prodded my pondering to allow God's work in my heart. This guidebook offers nourishing soul food for those with little or much experience in Bible meditation, individually or in a group setting." (Klaus Issler, author of *Living into the Life of Jesus*)"What a great help! Jan is truly a thoughtful and trusted guide. I love the way this book is laid out and the overarching direction it takes us in. Carefully working through this book will change your life." (Nathan Foster, director of community life, RenovarÃ©, author of *The Making of an Ordinary Saint*)"Jesus spoke of the wise disciple who 'brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old,' and this book does just that. It helps the follower of Jesus practice the call of Scripture to be people who meditate frequently on God's truth. The guidance given here is both time-tested by respected ancient writers and practice-tested in everyday life, as this book has grown out of years of fruitful Bible study leadership. There is a thoughtful grounding of the prayer and meditation exercises in the historical meaning of the text." (James C. Wilhoit, professor of core studies, Scripture Press Professor of Christian

Education, Wheaton College)"I've found encountering God in Scripture to be my favorite and most life-giving spiritual practice. In Meeting God in Scripture, Jan serves us as a seasoned guide to the classic spiritual practice of lectio divina through these forty well-crafted and inviting meditations. More than an idea book, this is an experience book. I hope you'll read it and grow in your enjoyment of God in Scripture." (Alan Fadling, president and founder, Unhurried Living, author of *An Unhurried Life*)"Jan Johnson has written a wonderful and clear guide to lectio divina. . . . [It] will be of tremendous help to everyone desiring to know God more deeply and to become more like Jesus." (Siang-Yang Tan, professor of psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary, author of *Counseling and Psychotherapy*)"When we experience abandonment, we look for guideposts to bring about renewal. These Scripture meditation exercises invite us into the presence of God, who creates a safe place for us and draws us into a culture for formation and growth." (Glandion Carney, author of *The Way of Grace*)

Jan Johnson is the author of over twenty books and more than a thousand magazine articles and Bible studies. A speaker, teacher and spiritual director, she writes primarily about spiritual formation, social justice and living with purposeful intentionality. Her books include *Abundant Simplicity*, *Hearing God Through the Year* (editor), *Enjoying the Presence of God*, and the *Spiritual Disciplines Bible Study Series*. She holds a DMin in Ignatian spirituality and spiritual direction from the Graduate Theological Foundation and lives with her husband in Simi Valley, California.

An excellent resource for an individual or a group. Jan did the background work and prepared the way for the reader to enter into lectio divina exercises. The richness of her work does not stem from her writing skills (although they are evident), but from her obvious personal interactions with the texts of Scripture. Well done!

Jan is gifted in leading & teaching the Lectio Divina method of mediation. Her book is a practical and resourceful guide for those who want to do it on their own. But is well suited to do it in a group setting. She has been doing it for thirty years so her fine tuned research helps the reader get into the narratives with the ability to enter in to the scenes. The book contains 40 well chosen stories or narratives with her setting the background to aid in giving cues to enter into what is happening. Also moves beyond understanding the passages to leading the reader into an direct personal encounter with the Living Word of God. The book is a gen..

The book facilitates meditation on the presence of God in our lives and in the world. If you follow the recommended steps in each meditation, you will be rewarded with an enriching experience. If you are looking to re-center yourself using scripture, I highly recommend this book

Awesome!

One of the best books I've had for guided study and interaction with scripture.

Love this book!

Very good

One of my favorite books this year! This is a wonderful introduction to lectio divina, as well as a helpful devotional book. It leads you to scripture, and then lets the scripture speak for itself.

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