

Contents

Introduction	1
 Chapter One: Encountering God in Difficult Times	
<i>Wishing God's direction came with directions</i>	5
■ Why is God interested in you?	7
■ Does anybody understand God?	10
■ Got faith?	12
■ Are you fearful of what following God might mean?	15
■ Do you feel as if no one understands you?	18
■ Are you stressed?	21
■ Are you in pain?	23
■ Are you suffering?	25
■ Are you depressed?	28
■ Do you get angry?	31
■ What comes out of your mouth?	34
■ Are you affected by hatred or racism?	37
■ Do peers pressure you?	40

Chapter Two: Encountering God During Advent and Christmastime

<i>Finding His presence under the tree</i>	43
■ What's the deal with Advent?	45
■ How much can you accomplish in one second?	47
■ Why are holidays so important?	50
■ Why does Mary get such props?	52
■ Are you "set" for the Nativity?	55
■ Just how little is this town of Bethlehem?	58
■ If it's supposed to be a "Silent Night," why all this music?	61
■ Have you untangled your Christmas lights yet?	65
■ Is your Christmas tree alive or dead?	67
■ Ever wonder where Santa Claus came from?	70
■ Were you ever afraid of Santa?	73
■ Do you like to open gifts early?	76

Chapter Three: Encountering God During Lent and Easter

<i>Discovering the yoke in the Easter egg</i>	79
■ What's the deal with Lent?	81
■ Why do we get ashes on our foreheads?	83
■ What's the purpose of abstinence?	86
■ Why do we abstain from <i>meat</i> during Lent?	89
■ Why do you love Jesus?	92
■ What is the greatest achievement of your life?	95
■ What's so good about Good Friday?	98
■ How could a loving God let His only Son die?	101
■ What does it take to change your life?	103
■ Jesus, the martial artist?	106
■ Do you believe in love at first sight?	108
■ How would Jesus like His eggs?	112

Chapter Four: Encountering God During Ordinary Time

<i>Embracing realities</i>	115
■ No date on Valentine's Day?	117
■ Frustrated with life at home?	119
■ Is your life a mess?	121
■ How can people cheat?	123
■ Are you dealing with divorce in your family?	125
■ Do you know anyone who is considering an abortion?	129
■ Do you struggle with an addiction?	132
■ In sickness and in health?	135
■ Are you ready to die?	137
■ Are you wondering about your future?	139
■ Does the Word of God ever confuse you?	141
■ You don't feel like acting Christian today?	143

Chapter Five: Encountering God All the Time

<i>Finding Him in the first place you look</i>	145
■ Does your pillow change temperature?	147
■ Are you a heavy sleeper?	149
■ Is your world noisy?	151
■ How's your memory?	154
■ Don't you hate paper cuts?	157
■ Does God read the newspaper?	159
■ Take another look at nursery rhymes.	162
■ Do you have to do the dishes?	165
■ Do you read those street signs?	167
■ Why do we give roses?	170
■ Would Jesus play video games?	173
■ Is God on IM?	175
■ Ever play cards with Jesus?	178
Notes	180