

encounters with Jesus

HERE
2stay.
discussion guide

Gather a group of people (consider all ages) to watch the video and then to explore, discuss and consider some action steps that may follow.

DEFINE

What space have you made for divine connections?

It is important to create spaces where we can encounter the living Jesus – not just in words from the front but in the still small voice of the Spirit of God who desperately wants to communicate with each of us. Connect intimately, personally and regularly with the Son of God.

WATCH THE VIDEO

This is ONE example of ONE aspect of what an 'encounter with Jesus' could be.

Spend some time exploring more of this topic and consider some of the opportunities around this final question,

❖ *"Whose voice is speaking the loudest in your life?"*



DISCUSSION

Reflecting on the story.

- ❖ What stood out for you in this story? Why?

DEEPER

Unpacking the building blocks listed on the video.

- Life moments create opportunities
- In the ordinary and extraordinary
- Jesus meets with us all differently
- Talk with others to seek confirmation
- In the planned and unexpected moments
- Create pauses

- ❖ Can you describe a moment in your life when you encountered Jesus in a real and special way?
- ❖ Is it your experience that Jesus feels just as close in the 'ordinary' moments as well as in the 'extraordinary' moments?
- ❖ Talk about some of the different ways that Jesus has met with you.
- ❖ Who have been some of the people to whom you have gone to test and confirm promptings from Jesus?
- ❖ What are some of your practices in the everyday flow of life that create spaces to hear the voice of Jesus?

DISCOVER

Digging into stories in the Bible that reinforce these building blocks.

KEY VERSE

John 10:3-5 *“The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”*

READ

Acts 9:1-19 Saul on the road to Damascus

- ❖ This is an extraordinary encounter with Jesus! As Saul is carrying out his murderous threats he is debilitated by a light around him. What is significant about his question in verse 5? (*His use of the title ‘Lord’ indicates Saul knew who was speaking with him*)
- ❖ What do you think the men travelling with Saul were thinking as ‘they could see nothing’?
- ❖ Have you had any questionable responses from some of your friends when exploring a direction from Jesus?
- ❖ What do you think Saul was thinking about during the 3 days that Jesus gave him to sit in darkness?
- ❖ Have you set aside a period of time in the past when seeking direction from God? (*cont. over...*)

- ❖ Have you been an 'Ananias' to any of your friends, 'placing your hands on them' and speaking words into their life?

DECIDE

Make an intentional plan to implement something from this discussion

- ❖ Reflect on the rhythm of your day/week/month and identify some of the spaces that you can create and prioritise so as to tune out the competing voices for your time and listen for what Jesus wants to communicate with you.
- ❖ Establish some habits and share these with a friend for encouragement and accountability.
- ❖ Have an attitude of expectancy to hear from Jesus as you read the Bible.
- ❖ Develop a culture with your friends of sharing what Jesus has been saying and revealing in your life.
- ❖ Meet on a regular basis (mutually agreed upon) with a spiritual mentor.
- ❖ Read some Christian biographies and be inspired by the way other followers have encountered Jesus.

DARE

Why don't you share your own "Enconter with Jesus" story. Film it and send it to us. If it is 3-5 minutes long ... we would love to share it with others.



For more information & resources:

[here2stay.org](https://www.here2stay.org)

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