

## Parent Curriculum Guide

### Study: **Encounters: Lives Forever Changed**

#### Overview:

Everyday we encounter all kinds of people short, tall, rich, poor, famous or infamous. Some of these encounters may have a lasting effect on us but no encounter can alter our course forever like an encounter with the living God. This 16-week study will examine 14 encounters that characters like Jacob, Solomon, Nicodemus, Zaccheus, Thomas, and Stephen had with the Lord and how their lives were forever changed.

#### Session One: Encounters with the Lord

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants to have an encounter with you.

Focal Passage: James 4:7–8

#### Outline:

1. The Lord will search for you. (Luke 19:9–10)
2. The Lord will meet you where you are. (Revelation 3:20)
3. The Lord will listen to you. (Psalm 34:17–18)
4. The Lord will give you what you need. (Matthew 11:28–30)

#### Questions For Discussion:

1. Is it possible to know and encounter God personally?
2. How can we know that God wants to have a personal encounter with us?

#### Session Two: Jacob

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants to teach you humility.

Focal Passage: Genesis 32:22–31; 33:1–10; James 4:6

#### Outline:

1. God's plans are better than our plans. (Genesis 32:1–24)
2. God can use painful times to grow us. (Genesis 32:24–32)
3. God wants us to be humble. (Genesis 33:1–10)

#### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is humility important to God?
2. What benefit do we get when live humbly before God?

#### Session Three: Solomon

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants to give you wisdom.

Focal Passage: 1 Kings 3:4–28

#### Outline:

1. Wisdom begins with worship. (1 Kings 3:3–4)
2. Wisdom is a free gift from the Lord. (1 Kings 3:5–15)
3. Wisdom has to be practiced. (1 Kings 3:16–28)

#### Questions For Discussion:

1. What is more important wisdom or knowledge? Why?
2. How can wisdom make you successful in life?

#### **Session Four: Isaiah**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants to give you a vision.

Focal Passage: Isaiah 6:1–8

##### Outline

1. Get a vision of God. (Isaiah 6:1–4)
2. Get a vision of yourself. (Isaiah 6:5)
3. Get a vision of what the Lord can do with your life. (Isaiah 6:6–8)

##### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important to have a God-given vision?
2. How can you prepare yourself to get a God-given vision?

#### **Session Five: Nicodemus**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants you to believe.

Focal Passage: John 3:1–21; 19:38–42

##### Outline:

A true believer won't hide in the night.

1. Misunderstanding your place (John 3:1–3)
2. Misunderstanding your position (John 3:4–15)
3. Misunderstanding your purpose (John 3:16–21)

A true believer shows it in the light.

1. You show your belief in where you go. (John 19:38–39)
2. You show your belief in what you give. (John 19:39–42)

##### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is belief important to a Christian?
2. Who do you believe that Jesus is?

#### **Session Six: The Woman At The Well**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants to give you a new identity.

Focal Passage: John 4:1–29, 39

##### Outline

Your identity doesn't come from things.

1. The well helped meet her needs. (vv. 5–10)
2. The well helped give her hope. (vv. 11–15)

Your identity comes from Jesus.

1. Jesus is our prophet. (vv. 16–19)
2. Jesus is our priest. (vv. 20–24)
3. Jesus is our king. (vv. 25–26)

##### Questions For Discussion:

1. How do you define your identity?
2. How can Jesus help you understand your identity?

### **Session Seven: The Demon Possessed Man**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants you to have peace.

Focal Passage: Mark 5:1–16

Outline:

No Jesus, No Peace

1. He was an outcast. (vv. 1–3)
2. He was hurting. (v. 4)
3. He was self-destructive. (v. 5)

Know Jesus, Know Peace

1. His evil was removed. (vv. 6–13)
2. His mind was restored. (vv. 14–16)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why does sin rob us of peace?
2. How can we have the peace that Jesus offers?

### **Session Eight: The Rich Young Ruler**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants you to make right choices.

Focal Passage: Matthew 19:16–22

Outline:

Choosing to Believe

1. A basic understanding of who Jesus is (Matthew 19:16)
2. A basic understanding of right from wrong (Matthew 19:16–19)

Choosing to Follow

1. The correct view of ourselves (Matthew 19:19–21)
2. The correct view of our things (Matthew 19:22)

Questions For Discussion:

1. How do your choices reflect who you are inside?
2. What should you base your life choices on?

### **Session Nine: Zacchaeus**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants you to be a giver.

Focal Passage: John 19:1–10

Outline:

Life is not about getting.

1. Thinking you are rich (vv. 1–3)
2. Still looking for more (v. 4)

Life is about giving.

1. True wealth has nothing to do with money. (vv. 5–7)
2. True wealth grows when it is given away. (vv. 8–10)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is giving a bigger blessing than getting?
2. How can giving be a kind of worship?

### **Session Ten: Pontius Pilate**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants us to be accountable.

Focal Passage: Matthew 27:11–26

Outline:

1. Do the right thing. (vv. 11–18)
2. Don't ignore good advice. (v. 19)
3. Accept responsibility. (vv. 20–23)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important to have accountability?
2. What is the danger of avoiding accountability?

### **Session Eleven: The Thief On The Cross**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants you to fight injustice.

Focal Passage: Luke 23:33–43

Outline:

1. Open your eyes to injustice. (vv. 32–39)
2. Do something about injustice. (vv. 40–41)
3. Depend on the Lord for help. (vv. 42–43)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why does God hate injustice?
2. What are some injustices that you can fight against?

### **Session Twelve: Mary Magdalene**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants to give your life purpose.

Focal Passage: John 20:1–18

Outline:

The Wrong Places to Look for Purpose

1. Your past (Luke 8:1–2)
2. Your feelings (John 19:25)
3. Your circumstances (John 20:1–2, 10–13)

The Right Places to Look for Purpose:

1. Jesus' words (John 20:14–16)
2. Jesus' mission (John 20:17–18)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Does God have a specific purpose for each of our lives?
2. How can we go about finding that purpose?

### **Session Thirteen: Thomas**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants to give you assurance.

Focal Passage: John 20:19–29

Outline:

Assurance doesn't require seeing.

1. Thomas didn't see. (vv. 19–24)
2. Thomas didn't believe. (v. 25)

Assurance requires believing.

1. Thomas did see. (vv. 26–27)
2. Thomas did believe. (v. 28)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Is it wrong to have doubts? Explain.
2. How can we get assurance and have victory over doubts?

### **Session Fourteen: Peter**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants you to be loyal.

Focal Passage: Matthew 26:69–75; John 21:1–17

Outline:

The Lord knows we lack loyalty.

1. Disloyal words (Matthew 26:69–75)
2. Disloyal actions (John 21:1–3)

The Lord will teach us loyalty.

1. Jesus meets our physical needs. (John 21:4–14)
2. Jesus meets our spiritual needs. (John 21:15–19)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is loyalty so important?
2. How can we demonstrate our loyalty to Christ on a daily basis?

### **Session Fifteen: Stephen**

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants to give you power.

Focal Passage: Acts 6:8–15; 7:54–60

Outline:

1. You can withstand anything through God's power.
  - A. Facing your enemies (Acts 6:8–10)
  - B. Facing your fears (Acts 6:11–15)
2. You can speak the truth with God's power. (Acts 7:51–53)
3. You can even face death with God's power. (Acts 7:54–60)

Questions For Discussion:

1. What is so special about having God's power in your life?
2. How can you get God's power?

**Session Sixteen:** Encounters With Others

Central Bible Truth: The Lord wants you to encounter others.

Focal Passage: Matthew 28:16–20

Outline:

1. Start with obedience. (vv. 16–17)
2. Share wherever you go. (v. 19a)
3. Reproduce yourself. (vv. 19b–20a)
4. Know that Jesus is with you. (v. 20b)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important for a Christian not to shut himself off from the world?
2. How can you begin to change the world for Christ?