

## “Encounters With Jesus” Connection Activities

**Directions:** Before beginning your group discussion each week, choose ONE of the connection prompts below to get your group talking. Encourage everyone to share. Remind members to keep their responses brief, so that everyone has a chance to share.

### **WEEK 1: Encounter with a Religious Man (Nicodemus), John 3:1-21**

- Share a time when you were so curious about something that you tried to learn about as much as you could about it.
- If you could go back in history and have a private conversation with Jesus, what is one question you would ask? Why?

### **WEEK 2: Encounter with a Lonely Woman, John 4:1-26**

- What is something you are personally thirsting for? *Friendship? Acceptance? Community? Forgiveness? Healing? Boldness? Economic security?* How is your thirst inviting you closer to God?
- After her encounter with Jesus, the woman ran back to town, with such excitement, and told everyone! Recall a time in your life when you were so excited about Jesus -- how can we bring back our excitement?

### **WEEK 3: Encounter with a Hopeless Man, John 5:1-15**

- Describe a time when you were sick and what it was like waiting to be well again.
- Who are the hardest people for you to love on, reach out to, care for? Why?

### **WEEK 4: Encounter with a Moral Failure, John 8:1-11**

- Briefly share a time when you either extended mercy to another person, or wish you had. How did the other person respond?
- Share briefly how grace changed YOU!

### **WEEK 5: Encounter with a Grieving Family, John 11:1-44**

- We all experience pain and difficult times in our life. What is the most painful or difficult thing that you have experienced? Did you question God's love for you during that time? Why or why not?
- Tell a time when you were deeply affected by someone else's tragedy?

### **WEEK 6: Encounter with a Powerful Man, John 18:28-19:16**

- Have you ever been in a situation where you were pressured to do wrong? To ignore truth to fit in with a group?
- Would you rather be the one in authority or the one subject to another person's authority?