

## Encounter - Kids Ministry Program

### Series Overview:

**Big Idea:**

People who encounter Jesus have a life changing experience. It happened in the Bible and it still happens today.

**Memory Verse:**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NirV)

"When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!"

**Bible Discovery Method:**

One of the key learning outcomes of this program is to help children grow in confidence and familiarity of the Bible, its structure (OT versus NT) and chapters/verses. We hope they learn to find bible verses for their personal growth now and into the future.

**Bible Version:**

For your information, we have used the New International Readers Version (NirV) in our program.

# encounter

*people Jesus met, then and now*

## Lessons

### WEEK 01 - ENCOUNTER (Church Campaign Week 1)

#### **Big idea:**

People have encounters with God, then and now! It's not just something strange or something old that we read in the Bible. God still shows up in amazing ways today.

#### **Getting started:**

##### **Preparation:**

Set up stations for the kids to engage with as they arrive. Kids can either choose what they engage with or can rotate through the stations.

##### **Suggested Stations:**

- Memory Verse Colouring In
- Blocks or building activity
- Craft or free drawing table

#### **Memory Verse Introduction:**

##### **Relay Race: Memory Verse Challenge**

##### **Preparation:**

Print the memory verse and cut out each word or phrase separately.

##### **Instructions:**

1. Divide the kids into teams and assign a "home base" for each team, along with a designated point they must run to and return from (this could be a cone or marker).
2. Place the cut-out words of the memory verse at the far point for each team.
3. One by one, the kids will run from their home base to the far point, pick up a single word/phrase of the memory verse, and run back to their team.
4. At home base, the team works together to arrange the words in the correct order to complete the memory verse.
5. Provide an NIRV Bible at each team's home base. If they get stuck, they can choose to look up the verse for help.

## Learning the Memory Verse

Help the kids memorise the verse using one of these creative techniques:

- 1. Melody or Beat:**  
Turn the verse into a song by creating a simple melody or rhythm. Singing the verse helps the kids internalise it in a fun and memorable way.
- 2. Sign Language:**  
Teach the verse using sign language, focusing on an accompanying movement for the key words. You can find helpful signs on Auslan's Signbank and we'd recommend learning the following bolded words:  
*"When **anyone** lives in **Christ (Jesus)**, the **new creation** has **come**. The **old** is **gone!** The **new** is **here!**"*  
(Explore more at [Auslan Signbank](#))
- 3. Actions:**  
Use simple hand motions or gestures to accompany the verse, helping the kids connect the words with actions to aid memorization.

## Introduction to Series:

*Say: We are starting a new series and it's about how people encounter Jesus.*

*Encounter means to meet.*

*People met Jesus when he walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. Over the next few weeks, we're going to look at people who met Jesus 'back then' and people who meet Jesus 'now'.*

## Then (Gospel Encounter): Mary - Luke 1:26-35

Each week in this series, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

## a) Bible Discovery: The Coming Birth of Jesus

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together Luke 1:26-35.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

- Read the passage out loud together
- Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
- Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
- Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?

## b) Bible Story: Luke 1:26-35

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

**26** In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. **27** He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

*Say: Mary was a young teenage Jewish girl who was engaged to Joseph...*

Read:

**29** Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you.

*Say: The angel told Mary not to be afraid and that God is very pleased with her. That was because Mary loved God very much and knew the scriptures well. She was devoted to God, even at her young age.*

Read:

**31** You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. **33** The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

*Say: Did you notice that? Mary was to give birth to a very important king. How would you feel if you found out your son was going to be a king that would rule forever?*

Read:

# encounter

*people Jesus met, then and now*

**34** “How can this happen?” Mary asked the angel. “I am a virgin.”

*Say: Mary was confused, but asked questions to find out how this might happen. We can ask questions of God too.*

Read:

**35** The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God.

*Say: After this visit from the Angel, Mary sings a song and celebrated God’s faithfulness. She was not afraid, but excited.*

*Mary was...*

*Devoted to God and he chose her.*

*Afraid.*

*Confused.*

*Then, praised and celebrated God’s faithfulness.*

## **Now (Life Encounter):**

### **Preparation:**

The life encounter this week is the story of two uni students who meet in a pub- David and Genevieve. Choose two volunteers to come and help you re-tell the story.

Print two copies of the script and hand one to the child playing David and one to the child playing Genevieve.

### **Story:**

Say:

*Today’s life encounter is the story of two uni students. Their names are David (give us a wave David) and Genevieve (give us a wave Genevieve).*

*These two were at uni together but they didn’t yet know each other.*

*David used to go out at night and write a question in a notepad. He would then send the notepad around and get answers from all kinds of people.*

*One day he went out and wrote “What is love?”*

# encounter

*people Jesus met, then and now*

*He got all kinds of responses. Some were silly, some funny and some tried to answer deeply. But ultimately, he was disappointed. No one really had a good answer for him!*

*But David was still searching for answers to life and this brings us to the night he meets Genevieve.*

*These two walk into a pub and meet each other.*

Encourage the children to re-enact this moment.

Say:

*David was super interested in Genevieve and asked her...*

SCRIPTED SCENE TO START:

David: How did you get your film into one of the biggest film festivals when you're only 19. Where did the idea come from?

Genevieve: Do you want the true answer or the easy answer?

David: ah, the true one I guess.

Genevieve: I feel that God actually gave me the idea for the film.

David: Which one?

Genevieve: Jesus.

David: I was hoping you wouldn't say that. I have issues with Christianity.

Genevieve: have you ever felt the love of God?

David: no

Genevieve: well, could I pray that you would experience that?

David: sure.

[End scene]

# encounter

*people Jesus met, then and now*

Say:

*Let's thank our volunteers.*

*It's interesting isn't it that David had been asking other people what they thought love was and then his new friend asks him: have you ever experienced God's love.*

*In this moment, he realised that he had never seen, felt or known God as someone who was loving.*

*As Genevieve prays for David, something amazing happens.*

*David has this encounter with God. Not an angel appearing like it did with Mary - but it was just as spectacular.*

*His body starts to flood with all kind of feeling: tingling, warmth,*

*His mind is seeing images of light and veils.*

*And he hears a voice asking him: Do you want me? Three times. Do you want me? Do you want me? Do you want me?*

*And David found himself saying: well if you're real, then yes, I do want you.*

*This was the start of a new chapter of David's life. He gave his life to Jesus that night - after experiencing the love of God in a simple prayer that a new friend was brave enough to offer.*

*He walked into the pub against the idea of God and Jesus - and left the pub that night as a Christian. It was an amazing encounter.*

## **Small Group Reflection time:**

Questions for small groups:

1. What stood out to you in the story of David and Genevieve?
2. How must Mary have felt when the angel appeared and told her she was going to have a baby?

Discuss how God may show up to us through the Holy Spirit and that we are always told "Do not be afraid".

Ask the kids if they have ever prayed with someone who doesn't yet know Jesus. Encourage them to do so in the future.

## **Re-Cap:**

God sometimes shows up. As an angel or as a feeling in our body - and we might feel afraid or concerned but we are always told "do not be afraid".

# encounter

*people Jesus met, then and now*

We are called to tell our friends and family about Jesus and to pray for people.

## **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we thank you that Jesus came to earth, died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins. Thank you that through Jesus, we can go to heaven and be with God. Amen.

## **Game:**

### **Stuck In The Mud**

**Optional:** Before or after the game, you could make the connection to the big idea.

**Ask:** How does it feel when you are stuck and you're standing there, hoping someone shows up to rescue you.

**Say:** Encounters with God can feel like this. We can feel stuck and sometimes we're even calling out to God for help. When Jesus shows up and we have an encounter, and everything changes.

DRAFT