

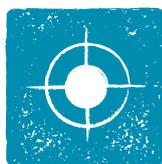


# CONNECTED

11-14yrs

*Session 2:*

## INTIMACY - LIVING WORD 2



### AIMS

- For the young people to continue to encounter God using their imaginations.
- For the young people to have a powerful encounter with Jesus during the Bible story.

### *teaching notes:*

Please refer to Session 1 for this term to see these. We don't recommend you proceed with this session without reading these notes.



## MEMORY VERSE

**‘AND WHEN HE SAW JESUS FROM AFAR, HE RAN AND FELL DOWN BEFORE HIM.’**

**MARK 5:6 ESV**



## GOD SPOT

(5 mins)

Have the young people talk about what they have seen God doing in their lives or the lives of others. They can also speak about things they are grateful for that have happened in their lives that week. (This is based on teaching from Session 6, Term 1 of Connected. If you haven't done this session then please read the teaching notes for this term.)

*Last week, we learnt about using our imaginations to interact with the Bible. Would anyone like to share their experiences this week of imagining Bible stories?*



## CATCH UP

(10 mins)

Refer to the teaching notes for this term for guidance on how to run this section.



## GAME 1

(5-10 mins)

### Resources:

- Appendix 1 printed onto card

*Imagine the things in your mind that this country is famous for and then describe them to the other youth. They must then guess the country from your description.*



## HEALING

(5 mins)

(This is based on teaching from Session 9, Term 2 of the curriculum. If you haven't done this session then see the teaching notes for this term.)

*Is there something you would like healed? Or is there someone you know who is sick? If the answer is, 'Yes,' just put your hand up. Will the people around them please pray. Remember to remind them to: ask, tell it to go, wait, see what God did and pray again. Allow the young people time to do this. Then ask what God did.*



## INTRODUCTION

(5 mins)

*If you could meet Jesus face to face, what question or questions would you ask Him?*



## BIBLE STORY

(5 mins)

### Resource:

- An age-appropriate Bible

Read the story of Saul's conversion in Acts 9:1-19 in age-appropriate Bibles.



## TALK

(10 mins)

*I want to explore an idea with you today. The idea is that we can meet Jesus through meditating on the Bible. In the story we just read, Saul is so impacted by an encounter with Jesus that he hears Him speak, is blinded and gives his life to following Jesus. We know from the passage that Saul appears to stay in one place - the soldiers who observe him don't see him move and they don't see Jesus. One theory could be that Jesus uses Saul's mind or imagination to meet with Him. Did you know that Saul (who became known as Paul) is considered to be an apostle? This title in the early church referred to someone who had met Jesus; the only other people it was given to were His disciples who spent three years with Him. This passage happens after Jesus had returned to be with Father God. So my point is, it is possible to meet with Jesus after His resurrection. If it was possible for Paul, then it is possible for us.*

*Why would we seek to meet Jesus face to face through scripture? Well, for me, it's about transformation. In Romans 12:2, the Bible says we will be transformed through the renewing of our minds. It encourages us not to stay in the patterns of this world, like spending all our time with the tv, our friends or online gaming. None of those things is bad but, if they are where we spend all our time, we don't give God the opportunity to transform our minds.*

*In our Bible passage today, Saul's mind was so transformed he was made new. All thoughts of killing and persecuting Christians flew from his mind. Ways and patterns of thinking he had been having for years were changed in an instant. How? He met with Jesus. Romans 12:2 goes on to say that, if we allow our minds to be transformed, then we will be able to test and approve God's will. This isn't just about knowing right from wrong, it's also about knowing what things about ourselves and our actions please God: knowing what God celebrates about us. All this can come from asking God to use His Word (the Bible) and our imaginations to allow us to meet with Jesus. There's another good reason to do it too - it's fun! Many people have said over the years, 'If only I could ask Jesus this question.' Well, supposing you could? Supposing you tried and waited on Him to answer? What difference could that make to someone's life?*

*As you read the gospels, you find people are transformed by spending time with Jesus. Saul isn't an exception, he's the rule. People who encounter Jesus can't help but be impacted by Him. The gospels are one story after another of transformed lives. Last week we heard how the lady who had written this curriculum was healed when she spent time with Jesus. Let me tell you her story in a bit more detail:*

*Elaine had been suffering with cluster migraines since she was a teenager. Migraines are terrible headaches: cluster migraines go on for days without stopping. Your head feels like it's in a vice that is being tightened and tightened, bright light hurts your eyes and you feel sick and dizzy. Elaine's were so bad they had tested her for a brain tumour because the whole of one side of her body kept getting numb and one side of her face would drop when this happened. They had put Elaine on lots of drugs to help control these problems and special pain killers. On this day, her head had started to ache and it was getting worse. She was away on a church break and the next session was starting but she decided to go to it. As the session started, she was asked to think of a question she would ask Jesus if she met Him.*



## TALK CONTINUED...

*The only thought that occurred to her was that she would be so in awe of Jesus that she wouldn't be able to say anything. Anyway, the man leading the session read the story of Mary and Martha and asked Elaine to imagine herself in the story, meeting and spending time with Jesus. She followed the story as he read it and did as he said, going off to spend time alone with Jesus in Martha's house. She laid her head on Jesus' lap and He put His hand on her head. It felt nice and she just stayed there. Then, in her mind, Jesus took His hand off her head and said to her, "Now go." She saw herself get up and move out of Martha's house and walk down the dusty road. At that point, the man leading the session asked everyone to finish. As she did this, she realised her headache had gone completely. That had never happened before; her headaches always got worse till she was in bed for days. What's more, her migraines didn't come back. She stopped taking all the drugs and is still free of them 13 years later.*

*We are going to practise using this method of chewing on scripture now.<sup>1</sup> Think back to our discussion at the beginning of the session. What question would you ask Jesus if you could meet Him face to face?*



## RESPONSE (10 mins)

Please read the meditation slowly and make sure you familiarise yourself with it before you start. Ensure you have read it through out loud to yourself before the session so you understand how the text flows.

Preparing the young people:

- Tell them to sit or lie down and relax
- Explain that we are going to explore a Bible passage using our imaginations
- The difference is, as we imagine, we are going to be putting ourselves into the Bible passage
- We are also going to meet Jesus in this time
- Tell them to listen without talking as you start the story...

*Jesus, thank You that Your Word is living and active. We give you access to our imaginations today: come and use them to speak to us.*

(Based on Luke 10:38-41)

*It's a hot day and the roads are dusty, but there's a cool breeze blowing from the East. You are travelling along the road with Jesus and His followers towards a white-washed house owned by Martha.*

Continued on next page...

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 1:2. Joshua 1:8. Psalm 119:15



## RESPONSE CONTINUED...

*When you arrive at the house, Martha welcomes you all in. Her sister Mary is there too. Everyone sits down to listen to Jesus as He speaks, including Mary. Martha excuses herself, saying she has lots to do to prepare for the meal she is serving later. She heads out to the kitchen and everyone focuses back on Jesus. You're not sure how long He talks for, but Martha comes back looking stressed and says to Jesus, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' Jesus says, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. Mary has chosen what is better - to be with Me - and it will not be taken away from her.'*

*Martha calms down and, a little later, everyone leaves the room to make final preparations for the meal. Everyone except you and Jesus. It's time to ask Him your questions, time to talk, or just to be with Him....*

- Leave plenty of time for them to meet with Jesus – be guided by the Holy Spirit and their level of interaction with the reflection.
- Then say:  
*Everyone comes back into the room and tells you both it's time to eat. You both get up and move to the table. It's time to move on.*



## REFLECT AND SHARE (10 mins)

### Resources:

- Journals and pens

- *Does anyone want to share what Jesus said to them or how that felt?*
- *Did you enjoy it? Was it easy to imagine?*

Reassure your youth that, if anyone hasn't encountered Jesus, that's ok. Explain that this is something that can take practice and it doesn't suit everyone. Our aim is to offer them lots of ways to connect with God and this may not be their way. However, they can still use this method to bring the Bible alive and that itself is really important and hugely valuable.



## ACTION (5 mins)

*Look up Luke 10:38-41 at home. Think about how I adapted the story slightly today. I thought about what it would look and feel like and about how and where we would put ourselves and our time with Jesus into the story. Once you've done this, pick a story that involves Jesus and do this for yourself and see what Jesus does. Then come and tell us about it next week.*



### GAME 2 (5 mins)

#### Resource:

- Balloon
- Masking tape

Divide your young people into two teams. Have them put a line down the middle of your room using the masking tape. They then have to lie on the floor and use their hands and feet to raise their bodies up (crab style). The aim of the game is for each team to kick the balloon over to the opposition's side. If it touches the floor a point is scored. The team with the highest score at the end of the time wins.



### RESOURCES

#### GAME 1:

- Appendix 1 printed onto card and cards cut out

#### BIBLE STORY:

- An age-appropriate Bible

#### REFLECT AND SHARE:

- Journals and pens

#### GAME 2:

- Balloon
- Masking tape

