

# Encountering Jesus

## 10-Week Bible Discussion

### Introduction and Instructions

Our desire is that every student who is involved with Destino personally encounter Jesus in a life-altering way. We also want to equip them to communicate truth about Jesus to others, whether at work, in their family, or on campus.

This, like other resources at our disposal within Destino, is a tool. It is a guideline for a discussion about Jesus. Its strength lies in the doctrinal teaching about Jesus, simplicity of preparation and consistent application to life. It will be important for leaders to be familiar with the material in order to lead a discussion that has both depth and interest.

We have created these to be *transferable*, to be something any student leader can do on their own very easily. In fact, these discussions are intended to be so transferable that each student *participating* in this discussion could turn around and lead it on their own the next semester!

### Session Preparation Guidelines

#### PRAY

Only God can empower you to have a truly successful session. Take some time to pray for that before you dig into your specific preparation. Also pray for each person in your group:

1. That he/she will attend this session.

2. That God will help him/her understand what will be discussed.
3. That each person will apply the main lesson in some specific way this week.
4. That each person will share what was learned with someone else this week.

#### CONNECT

Be sure to have a good personal example ready to be able to tell how you have experienced the stated truth. This lead into the Bible discussion is intended to be a sharing of experiences not a debating of opinions. It should create a climate where most people acknowledge the truth from experience, so you can easily lead into the HEAR section with a statement like

“Jesus forgives when others judge . . .”

*Note: The above material is adapted from the Essentials Studies by Steve Douglass, available at [www.godsquad.com](http://www.godsquad.com)*

Part of connecting involves assessing where your group members are spiritually. If there are a number of non-Christians present, your whole session may contain more explanation and may need to be sensitive about prayer times, etc.

#### HEAR

Spend time reading over the possible Bible passages. The Bible says that faith comes by

*“Now this is eternal life:  
that they know you, the only  
true God, and Jesus Christ,  
whom you have sent.”*

*John 17:3*

hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ (Rom. 10:17). We want people to interact with the Scripture, so design questions that help them consider the passage you are studying. Ask yourself if there are questions you would like to add or use instead of the questions listed. If, for example, your group consists mainly of non-Christians, you may need to ask questions which clarify or assure proper understanding, like: “Is there anything about this passage that isn’t making sense to you?”

Once you have determined which questions you are going to use for a particular Bible passage, write those questions to the left of the Group Discussion Outline page. This part of the preparation process should help you guide the discussion more easily.

### **APPLY**

This should flow very directly from the HEAR discussions. For example, in the “Jesus is God” lesson you should be able to say something like: “We agreed in our discussion at the beginning that ‘what we believe to be true about Jesus affects life’. If He really is God, if what the Bible says about Him is true, then each of us needs to evaluate how that truth affects our life.”

Then the next logical question is, “Why are we skeptical of who Jesus is?”

Every session has this kind of simple flow of thinking built into it. Don’t make things too complicated or disjointed. Let the discussion flow from one step to the next. And make sure your group members do write down an “action to take” and share and pray about it. Life change leads to motivation to continue to grow and to talk about Christ with others.

### **TELL**

Likewise make sure they plan to tell someone outside the group what they are learning. This helps the person in the group to learn (or own) the material. It also points people not currently participating in the group to Jesus as well. Realize that many people may be somewhat reluctant at first to talk about spiritual things with friends. But those simple discussions help the gospel spread through the network of friends of the members of your group.

On the next page you’ll find a “Mini Journal” page for you to print out and give each member of your *familia* group. Each week you will ask them to write down what they’re learning and what steps they’re going to take to put into practice what they’re learning.

# Encountering Jesus

## *Mini-Journal*

### **Jesus is God**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus is the Lamb of God**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus is the Teacher**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus is the Living Water**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus is Healer**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus is the Provider**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus is the Forgiver**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus is the Judge**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus is the Life-Giver**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Jesus is King**

Lesson Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

Action to Take: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Tell: \_\_\_\_\_

# Encountering Jesus

## Jesus is God

Week 1

### CONNECT with needs:

1. Find out how they are doing.
2. Pray for wisdom from God for this discussion time.
3. Start by saying, "What we believe to be true about Jesus affects life."  
Then, surface experiences:  
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."  
"Have any of you experienced something similar?"
4. Transition to the Bible by saying, "Jesus was not ordinary – He was and is God."

### HEAR what God says:

1. Read these Bible passages then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus was not an ordinary person*: John 1:1-18; John 10:24-33; Hebrews 1:1-3
2. Insights to help you understand:  
**John 1:1-18** - John introduces Jesus as the only Son of God, who was present and actively part of creation. He was the Light that overcame darkness. He was sent from God to bring grace (forgiveness) and truth (about sin and darkness) to the world, but not everyone received that truth.  
**John 10:24-33** - The Jews wanted to hear very plainly from Jesus about whether or not He was the expected Messiah. Jesus goes a step further and says that He and the Father are one. The Jews recognize that Jesus is calling Himself God and prepare to stone Him.  
**Hebrews 1:1-3** - These verse describe Jesus as the exact representation of God.

3. Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time):  
"What do you think this passage teaches us?"  
"What do we learn about Jesus – who He is and why He came?"  
"How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: what we believe to be true about Jesus affects life?"

### APPLY that to life:

1. State the main lesson: John testifies that Jesus is the Son of God and He is the Light which enlightens everyone. Have them write the "lesson learned" on their mini-journal.
2. Discuss:  
"Why are we skeptical of who Jesus is?"  
"What is one action you can take this week to explore more about who Jesus is?"
3. Have them write down that specific "action to take." Invite people to share what they wrote down.
4. Invite the group to pray for obedience to God.

### TELL someone they know:

1. Ask them who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. Have them write that person's name in the "person to tell" line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. Pray for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

# Encountering Jesus

## Jesus is the Lamb of God

Week 2

### CONNECT with needs:

1. *Find out how they are doing.*
2. *Pray for wisdom* from God for this discussion time.
3. *Start by saying*, “When people see Jesus for who He is, there is a desire to learn more.”  
Then, surface experiences:  
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”  
“Have any of you experienced something similar?”
4. Transition to the Bible by saying, “John calls Jesus the Lamb of God.”

### HEAR what God says:

1. *Read these Bible passages* then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus is described as the Lamb of God*: John 1:29-51; Exodus 12:3-7, 11-13; 1 Pet. 1:17-19
2. *Insights to help you understand*:  
**John 1:29, 35-51** - John describes Jesus as, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” At this time period, the listeners would have connected the idea of a lamb with a blood sacrifice at the temple. When John’s followers heard of this Lamb (this man) who takes AWAY sin, they were curious to follow Him to see if this was true.  
**Exodus 12:3-7, 11-13** - The people of Israel have been in Egypt for 430 years. They have been slaves during the reigns of the two most recent pharaohs. God has sent Moses to the current pharaoh to secure the release of Israel, but the pharaoh has refused over and over. This passage describes the miraculous release of Israel, involving the blood sacrifice of a lamb without blemish. The Lord would strike down every firstborn son in the land. The only ones to be spared this judgment would be the people of Israel who had placed the blood of the lamb on the doorposts. Then, the Lord’s judgment would

“pass over” that house.

**1 Peter 1:17-19** - It is the blood of Jesus (here described as a lamb without blemish) that releases people from God’s righteous and impartial judgment.

3. *Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time)*:  
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”  
“What do we learn about Jesus – who He is and why He came?”  
“How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: when people see Jesus for who He is, there is a desire to learn more?”

### APPLY that to life:

1. *State the main lesson*: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away sin. Have them write the “lesson learned” on their mini-journal.
2. *Discuss*:  
“Why is it hard to believe that Jesus can take away sin?”  
“What is one action you can take this week to explore more about who Jesus is?”
3. *Have them write down* that specific “action to take.” Invite people to *share* what they wrote down.
4. *Invite the group to pray* for obedience to God.

### TELL someone they know:

1. *Ask them* who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. *Have them write* that person’s name in the “person to tell” line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. *Pray* for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. *Encourage them* to tell those people in the next few days.

# Encountering Jesus

## Jesus is the Teacher

Week 3

### CONNECT with needs:

1. *Find out how they are doing.*
2. *Pray for wisdom* from God for this discussion time.
3. *Start by saying*, “When people want to know about Jesus, they have to be ready to hear what Jesus teaches.”

Then, surface experiences:

“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”  
“Have any of you experienced something similar?”

4. Transition to the Bible by saying, “Jesus taught Nicodemus about the kingdom of God.”

### HEAR what God says:

1. *Read these Bible passages* then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus taught Nicodemus about the kingdom of God:* John 3:1-21; Ezekiel 36:25-28

2. *Insights to help you understand:*

**John 3:1-21** - Nicodemus, a member of the strict religious sect of Judaism, comes to Jesus at night because he wants to learn more about this person who does miracles. He has seen things he can't explain and wants to understand. He has already made the connection that Jesus is from God. Jesus says that for a person to enter the kingdom of God, one must experience a new birth through believing in God's Son – that is, Jesus Himself.

**Ezekiel 36:25-28** - These verses describe the cleansing that comes when someone experiences a spiritual birth, which results in a new heart and a new spirit. The new birth is not physical, but an inward change.

3. *Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time):*

“What do you think this passage teaches us?”

“What do we learn about Jesus – who He is and why He came?”

“How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: when people want to know about Jesus, they have to be ready to hear what Jesus teaches.”

### APPLY that to life:

1. *State the main lesson:* If I want to know more about Jesus, I have to come ready to learn. Have them write the “lesson learned” on their mini-journal.
2. *Discuss:*  
“How would you go about starting to experience an inward change?”  
“What is one action you can take this week to explore more about who Jesus is?”
3. *Have them write down* that specific “action to take.” Invite people to *share* what they wrote down.
4. *Invite the group to pray* for obedience to God.

### TELL someone they know:

1. *Ask them* who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. *Have them write* that person's name in the “person to tell” line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. *Pray* for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. *Encourage them* to tell those people in the next few days.

# Encountering Jesus

## *Jesus is the Living Water*

Week 4

### CONNECT with needs:

1. *Find out how they are doing.*
2. *Pray for wisdom* from God for this discussion time.
3. *Start by saying*, “When people search for satisfaction and contentment, the results are often temporary.”  
Then, surface experiences:  
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”  
“Have any of you experienced something similar?”
4. Transition to the Bible by saying, “Jesus is the Living Water. He satisfies.”

### HEAR what God says:

1. *Read these Bible passages* then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus is the Living Water. He satisfies.* John 4:1-30; John 7:37-38.
2. *Insights to help you understand:*  
**John 4:1-30** - Jesus has been traveling, is tired and stops at a well. He meets a woman who comes to draw water and asks her for a drink. Jesus’ conversation with her is surprising in several ways. She was a woman (improper in this culture to initiate a dialogue), a Samaritan (considered half-breeds by the Jews) and he spoke as if he knew her. Jesus reveals this woman’s search for satisfaction – physical (in drawing water), relational (in having five husbands) and spiritual (as she waits for the Messiah who will reveal all things). Jesus says that He gives water that fully satisfies and tells the woman that He is the Messiah.  
**John 7:37-38** - The Jewish Feast of the Tabernacles is concluding. This was a seven day celebration that served as a reminder of how God continually provided for the physical needs of the Israelites when they wandered in the desert for 40 years. On the last day of the feast, Jesus again says that the thirsty may come to Him and drink.

This claim places Jesus on the same level of God, as able to provide, but He goes a step further to say that this is an inward change that starts with believing in Him.

3. *Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time):*  
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”  
“What do we learn about Jesus – who He is and why He came?”  
“How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: when people search for satisfaction and contentment, the results are often temporary.”

### APPLY that to life:

1. *State the main lesson:* Jesus offers satisfaction that lasts. Have them write the “lesson learned” on their mini-journal.
2. *Discuss:*  
“How would you go about starting to experience an inward change?”  
“What is one action you can take this week to explore more about who Jesus is?”
3. *Have them write down* that specific “action to take.” Invite people to *share* what they wrote down.
4. *Invite the group to pray* for obedience to God.

### TELL someone they know:

1. *Ask them* who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. *Have them write* that person’s name in the “person to tell” line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. *Pray* for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. *Encourage them* to tell those people in the next few days.

# Encountering Jesus

## *Jesus is the Healer*

Week 5

### **CONNECT with needs:**

1. *Find out how they are doing.*
2. *Pray for wisdom* from God for this discussion time.
3. *Start by saying*, “Sometimes when people need help the most, there are no friends or family who have the ability to help.”  
Then, surface experiences:  
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”  
“Have any of you experienced something similar?”
4. Transition to the Bible by saying, “Jesus can heal people physically.”

### **HEAR what God says:**

1. *Read these Bible passages* then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus can heal people physically*: John 5:1-15; Mark 10:46-52.
2. *Insights to help you understand*:  
**John 5:1-15** - Jesus meets a man who has been unable to walk for thirty eight years. He would sit by a pool in Jerusalem where many invalids would go to seek healing. Legend said that an angel would come to stir the pool, and the first person to get into the water would be healed. There was no one to help this man get to the water quickly. Jesus told the man to get up and walk, and after thirty eight years, he did.  
**Mark 10:46-52** - When Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem, a blind beggar cried out to Jesus to heal him. Apparently, the crowd was talking about Jesus, and the blind man had heard of Jesus’ ability to heal. Jesus stopped and healed the man’s blindness.

3. *Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time)*:  
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”  
“What do we learn about Jesus – who He is and why He came?”  
“How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: “Sometimes when people need help the most, there are no friends or family who have the ability to help.”

### **APPLY that to life:**

1. *State the main lesson*: Jesus can heal people physically. Have them write the “lesson learned” on their mini-journal.
2. *Discuss*:  
“Why do we doubt Jesus’ ability to perform miracles?”  
“What is one action you can take this week to believe Jesus for a miracle in your life?”
3. *Have them write down* that specific “action to take.” Invite people to *share* what they wrote down.
4. *Invite the group to pray* for obedience to God.

### **TELL someone they know:**

1. *Ask them* who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. *Have them write* that person’s name in the “person to tell” line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. *Pray* for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. *Encourage them* to tell those people in the next few days.

# Encountering Jesus

## *Jesus is the Provider*

Week 6

### **CONNECT with needs:**

1. *Find out how they are doing.*
2. *Pray for wisdom* from God for this discussion time.
3. *Start by saying*, “When people need something, they try to figure out a way to get it.”  
Then, surface experiences:  
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”  
“Have any of you experienced something similar?”
4. Transition to the Bible by saying, “Jesus can provide abundantly in time of need.”

### **HEAR what God says:**

1. *Read these Bible passages* then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus can provide abundantly in time of need*: John 6:1-14; 1 Kings 17:1-9.
2. *Insights to help you understand:*  
**John 6:1-14** - Jesus and His disciples are being followed by a large crowd who have witnessed His miracles with the sick. There are about 5,000 people, and Jesus knows they are hungry. After His disciples have exhausted the “logical” dinner options, Jesus takes five loaves of bread and two fish, gives thanks for God’s provision, and passes it out to all who were there. Everyone ate their full, and there were twelve baskets of bread left over.  
**1 Kings 17:1-9** - This passage provides another example of how God will provide abundantly in time of need. Elijah, a prophet of God, has just told the evil king Ahab that there will be no rain until God says so (the drought lasted three years). God sends Elijah to live by a brook, where He provides water and sends bread and meat by way of ravens every morning and night. When the

brook dries up, God sends Elijah to a widow, where He provides for him again.

3. *Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time):*  
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”  
“What do we learn about Jesus – who He is and why He came?”  
“How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: “When people need something, they try to figure out a way to get it.”

### **APPLY that to life:**

1. *State the main lesson*: Jesus can provide when I need something. Have them write the “lesson learned” on their mini-journal.
2. *Discuss*:  
“What keeps us from trusting that Jesus will provide for our needs?”  
“What is one action you can take this week to trust Jesus to provide for you?”
3. *Have them write down* that specific “action to take.” Invite people to *share* what they wrote down.
4. *Invite the group to pray* for obedience to God.

### **TELL someone they know:**

1. *Ask them* who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. *Have them write* that person’s name in the “person to tell” line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. *Pray* for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. *Encourage them* to tell those people in the next few days.

# Encountering Jesus

## *Jesus is the Forgiver*

Week 7

### **CONNECT with needs:**

1. *Find out how they are doing.*
2. *Pray for wisdom* from God for this discussion time.
3. *Start by saying*, “Many people live in shame because of their past.”  
Then, surface experiences:  
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”  
“Have any of you experienced something similar?”
4. Transition to the Bible by saying, “Jesus forgives when others judge.”

### **HEAR what God says:**

1. *Read these Bible passages* then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus forgives when others judge*: John 8:1-11; Matthew 7:1-5; Matthew 9:10-13 .
2. *Insights to help you understand:*

**John 8:1-11** - There is a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. The law states that she must be stoned. Jesus says the person who has never done anything wrong should be the first one to throw a rock. He begins to write on the ground. Perhaps He listed each person's sins, but one by one they all leave. He and woman are left. Jesus, the only one without sin, forgives instead of condemns.

**Matthew 7:1-5** - In these verses, Jesus warns the people to be careful how they judge others. It is easier to see the bad in someone else's life than to examine our own lives and take responsibility for the wrong things we have done.

**Matthew 9:10-13** - This is another instance when Jesus befriended those who were outcasts in some way by society. Tax collectors were generally hated by the public, because they lined their own pockets with inflated taxes. Jesus states that He came to call sinners. They are the ones who need forgiveness.

3. *Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time):*  
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”  
“What do we learn about Jesus – who He is and why He came?”  
“How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: “Many people live in shame because of their past.”

### **APPLY that to life:**

1. *State the main lesson:* Jesus wants to forgive sinners. Have them write the “lesson learned” on their mini-journal.
2. *Discuss:*  
“What keeps us from seeing our own sin?”  
“What is one action you can take this week to leave the past and accept forgiveness?”
3. *Have them write down* that specific “action to take.” Invite people to *share* what they wrote down.
4. *Invite the group to pray* for obedience to God.

### **TELL someone they know:**

1. *Ask them* who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. *Have them write* that person's name in the “person to tell” line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. *Pray* for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. *Encourage them* to tell those people in the next few days.

# Encountering Jesus

## Jesus is the Judge

Week 8

### CONNECT with needs:

1. *Find out how they are doing.*
2. *Pray for wisdom* from God for this discussion time.
3. *Start by saying*, “Blindness to spiritual truth always precedes understanding truth.”  
Then, surface experiences:  
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”  
“Have any of you experienced something similar?”
4. Transition to the Bible by saying, “Jesus is the Judge of those who are blind and those who see.”

### HEAR what God says:

1. *Read these Bible passages* then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus is the Judge of those who are blind and those who see*: John 9:1-41; John 3:18-21; John 5:22-24
2. *Insights to help you understand*:

**John 9:1-41** - This is a fascinating account of Jesus healing a man who is born blind. Jesus says the man is blind so that the works of God might be displayed. He also makes a point to say that He is the Light of the world. We must have light to see. Jesus is that Light. The blind man doesn't ask Jesus for healing and doesn't speak to Him again until after he has been questioned by neighbors and by the religious rulers, who are looking for any answer except that Jesus was involved in this miracle. Jesus says that He came to judge, that those who do not see may see (wordplay upon the physical healing of the man as well his spiritual belief in Jesus) and that those who see may become blind (referring to how the religious leaders claim to know truth but don't believe in Jesus).

**John 3:17-21** - Judgment is again related to Light here. Jesus, the Light, has come into the world to reveal what is in the dark. Judgment has already come to those who don't believe in Him.

**John 5:22-24** - These verses also connect the idea of Jesus being the Judge. Those who choose to believe in Him are not judged and pass into eternal life

3. *Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time)*:  
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”  
“What do we learn about Jesus – who He is and why He came?”  
“How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: “Blindness to spiritual truth always precedes understanding truth.”

### APPLY that to life:

1. *State the main lesson*: Jesus wants to give light to the blind so they will believe in Him. Have them write the “lesson learned” on their mini-journal.
2. *Discuss*:  
“What keeps us from understanding truth?”  
“What is one action you can take this week to see truth yourself or to help someone else see truth?”
3. *Have them write down* that specific “action to take.” Invite people to *share* what they wrote down.
4. *Invite the group to pray* for obedience to God.

### TELL someone they know:

1. *Ask them* who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. *Have them write* that person's name in the “person to tell” line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. *Pray* for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. *Encourage them* to tell those people in the next few days.

# Encountering Jesus

## Jesus is the Life Giver

Week 9

### CONNECT with needs:

1. *Find out how they are doing.*
2. *Pray for wisdom* from God for this discussion time.
3. *Start by saying*, “Often people fear what happens after death.”  
Then, surface experiences:  
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”  
“Have any of you experienced something similar?”
4. Transition to the Bible by saying, “Jesus is the Life-Giver.”

### HEAR what God says:

1. *Read these Bible passages* then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus is the Live-Giver*: John 11:1-44; 1 Corinthians 15:3-19; 2 Timothy 1:10.

2. *Insights to help you understand:*

**John 11:1-44** - While traveling, Jesus is informed that His friend Lazarus is sick, and though He knows Lazarus will not remain dead, he dies while they are still traveling. Jesus arrives after Lazarus has been in the tomb for days. In His conversation with Lazarus’ sister Martha, Jesus says that if someone believes in Him, he will live, even though he dies. Martha thinks He only speaks of eternal life. Jesus is speaking of eternal life, but He illustrates His point by raising Lazarus from the dead.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-19** - Jesus was raised from the dead, never to die again. The apostle Paul emphasizes the things he considers to be the most important about Jesus: that He died for our sins, He was buried, and He was raised from the dead and appeared to many people. He says that Jesus’ own resurrection from the dead is the basis upon which we know there is eternal life through Him.

**2 Timothy 1:10** - Jesus’ resurrection has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

3. *Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time):*  
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”  
“What do we learn about Jesus – who He is and why He came?”  
“How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: “Often people fear what happens after death.”

### APPLY that to life:

1. *State the main lesson:* Jesus gives eternal life to all who believe in Him. Have them write the “lesson learned” on their mini-journal.
2. *Discuss:*  
“Why are we more likely to fear death than anticipate life?”  
“What is one action you can take this week to have a conversation with someone about death and the life Jesus offers?”
3. *Have them write down* that specific “action to take.” Invite people to *share* what they wrote down.
4. *Invite the group to pray* for obedience to God.

### TELL someone they know:

1. *Ask them* who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. *Have them write* that person’s name in the “person to tell” line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. *Pray* for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. *Encourage them* to tell those people in the next few days.

# Encountering Jesus

## Jesus is the King

Week 10

### CONNECT with needs:

1. Find out how they are doing.
2. Pray for wisdom from God for this discussion time.
3. Start by saying, "Life changes if I see Jesus as King and Lord."  
Then, surface experiences:  
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."  
"Have any of you experienced something similar?"
4. Transition to the Bible by saying, "Jesus is the King and Lord."

### HEAR what God says:

1. Read these Bible passages then re-tell the story in your own words, as related to the topic: *Jesus is the King and Lord*: John 18:33-40; 19:19-22; 1 Tim. 6:13-16; Philippians 2:5-11.

2. Insights to help you understand:

**John 18:33-40** - Jesus is standing trial before Pilate, being questioned about His authority, about whether or not He is a king. Jesus appears to be more concerned that Pilate understand truth. Jesus says that His kingdom is not of this world, indicating that He is more than just King of the Jews. Pilate later directed that the inscription of the crime that was nailed to Jesus' cross say, "King of the Jews."

**1 Timothy 6:13-16** - The apostle Paul describes Jesus as "the blessed and only Sovereign, the Kings of kings and Lord of lords." The inscription "King of the Jews" was too limited.

**Philippians 2:5-11** - In this passage, the apostle Paul says that although Jesus was God, when He became a man, He submitted Himself to a criminal's death on a cross, even though He was without sin or blame. As a result, God exalted Him when He raised Him from the dead, saying that one day every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

3. Discuss (answer these questions for each passage, one passage at a time):  
"What do you think this passage teaches us?"  
"What do we learn about Jesus - who He is and why He came?"  
"How do you think this relates to what we talked about earlier: "Life changes if I see Jesus as King and Lord.""

### APPLY that to life:

1. State the main lesson: One day everyone will see Jesus as King and Lord. Have them write the "lesson learned" on their mini-journal.
2. Discuss:  
"What things keep me from wanting to acknowledge Jesus as King?"  
"What is one action you can take this week to demonstrate that Jesus is King and Lord of your life?"
3. Have them write down that specific "action to take." Invite people to share what they wrote down.
4. Invite the group to pray for obedience to God.

### TELL someone they know:

1. Ask them who they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
2. Have them write that person's name in the "person to tell" line on the mini-journal. Invite them to share what they wrote.
3. Pray for boldness and obedience to share the Good News.
4. Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.