

Encounters Series Summary

Over a period of forty days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his followers at least ten times before he ascended to heaven. In our six-session Encounters series, we will focus on moments when Jesus met with his followers between his resurrection and ascension to Heaven.



Session 1: A Moment with Mary

Bible references: Luke 8:1-3; Mark 16:9; Matthew 27:55-56; Mark 15:40; John 19:25; Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-22

Many women played an important part in the life and ministry of Jesus, but today we are going to focus on just one of them. Mary Magdalene followed Jesus throughout his ministry and was by his side during Holy Week. She played an integral part in laying the foundations of the Church we know today. In this Bassline session, we are also going to consider the role of women within the ministry of Jesus and the part they play in the story of The Salvation Army.

You will need:

- Mary Magdalene handout
- William Booth handout

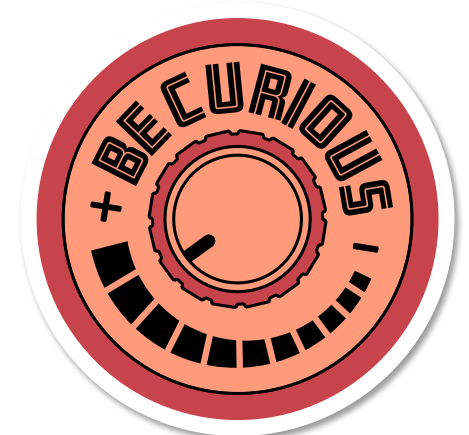
Session 2: Surprise? The Road to Emmaus

Bible reference: Luke 24:13-35

As our Encounters Bassline series continues, we discover the story of two disciples despondently walking along the road to Emmaus. As they contemplated the events of a horrendous weekend, Jesus came up and walked with them. Instead of revealing himself to them, he shared with them the ultimate Bible study. Every prophecy that spoke of his life was meticulously explained, highlighting how this 'surprise' encounter should never have been unexpected. In today's Bassline we will walk with these disciples along their journey to discovering the resurrected Jesus.

You will need:

- Road Ahead handout
- Bibles (physical or mobile)



Session 3: Thomas – Deconstructing Doubt

Bible reference: John 20:19-29

Thomas missed an opportunity to meet the resurrected Jesus and struggled to believe his fellow disciples when they shared the details of their encounter. In Session Three we consider whether ‘doubting Thomas’ is a worthy nickname or whether this disciple moved from doubt to disbelief. We’ll also tackle the tricky topic of deconstruction. Is there a way to deconstruct what we believe in order to rebuild our faith in God on a stronger foundation?

You will need:

- Lego (optional for the Beat activity)
- A Lego piece for each member of the group to take home
- Permanent markers

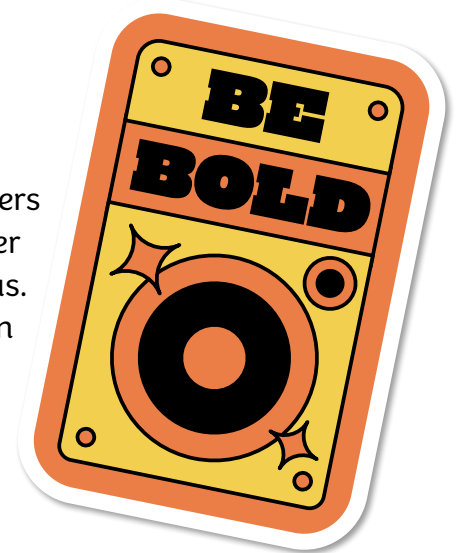
Session 4: Peter – A Fresh Start

Bible reference: John 21:1-25

In this Bassline session we continue to explore the different encounters Jesus had with his followers after his resurrection. Today’s encounter involved a cooked breakfast on a beach, and the head chef was Jesus. That sounds like a pretty amazing breakfast! In this encounter, Simon Peter was able to put the past behind him and make a fresh start. With Jesus, we can do exactly the same.

You will need:

- Paper and felt-tips
- Food to share together during the Sound Check section



Session 5: The Great Commission

Bible reference: Matthew 28:16-20

Many people are searching for followers. They want to influence the way we dress, think, act, purchase and generally live our lives. Many have good intentions, while some do not, but they all fall short of the person we follow as Christians. In our Bassline session today, we will explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and how following him is the best decision we can make in our lives. As Jesus encountered his disciples on the mountaintop, he gave the most important instructions they would ever need, which remain applicable to us today.

You will need:

- Creative resources for the Sound Check section (appropriate for the group)

Session 6: The Final Earthly Encounter

Bible references: Luke 24:36-49; Acts 1:1-11

To bring our Encounters Series to a close, we will discover the significance of Jesus' ascension to heaven. In this final earthly encounter, Jesus met with his disciples, calming their fears and bringing his peace. Although he wouldn't give them the answers they desired, Jesus promised to empower the disciples with the Holy Spirit. Through his ascension, the disciples would experience more of Jesus, not less. As Christians today, we can experience the fulfilment of that same promise of power.

You will need:

- Paper
- Felt-tip pens



These Bassline are produced by the Children and Youth Department and Mission Resources in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview).