

Encounter



Luke 5 to 9



In this session the young people continue their journey through Luke's Gospel by exploring a range of encounters Jesus had during the early part of his ministry. As they read stories of healing, forgiveness, provision, restoration and rejection, they will notice how people responded in different ways. Some were amazed, some were afraid, some chose to follow and others questioned or resisted him. Through discussion and creative reflection, the young people will consider what these encounters reveal about who Jesus is and what happens when people meet him for themselves.

You will need:

- Paper and pens
- 'Encounters' handout
- 'Encounters Scripture Verses' cards



Beat

Leader's notes:

Today's Beat section is short and sweet to allow plenty of time for the young people to explore Luke's Gospel in the Amplify section. Divide the group into pairs.

Say:

Think of a time when you met someone unexpectedly or had a short encounter that stayed with you. It might have been someone famous, someone new at school, someone who helped you or even a stranger.

In pairs, take two minutes each to briefly describe:

- What happened
- How you felt
- Whether it changed anything afterwards

Leader's notes:

After a few minutes, bring the group back together.

Ask:

What makes some encounters more memorable than others?



 **Bridge**

Ask:

Who would you most like to have an encounter with? Explain your choice.

 **Amplify**

Say:

Last week we explored how Luke introduces Jesus at the beginning of his Gospel. Before Jesus' ministry really begins, Luke records the promises that were spoken about him and the ways in which his identity was named and affirmed.

Today we move on to the next section of Luke's Gospel. As Jesus begins teaching and travelling, people encounter him for themselves. They see what he does, they hear what he says, and they respond in different ways.

As we work through these encounters, notice what is happening in each one. Jesus does something and the people around him respond. In some stories they are amazed and in others they are afraid. Some choose to follow him, while others question him or reject him. As these responses build up across the chapters, a question gradually begins to take shape: who is this Jesus?

Leader's notes:

In the Amplify section today, the young people will explore a range of encounters Jesus has with people in Luke chapters 5 to 9. They can work in small teams or pairs.

For each encounter, they will answer the four questions on the 'Encounters' handout:

1. What happens in this encounter?
2. What does Jesus do?
3. How do the people respond?
4. What does this show us about who Jesus is?

As they work through the passages, they should record their responses in the columns provided on the handout.

You will also need to prepare the 'Encounters Scripture Verses' cards in advance. Cut up the sheet so that each card contains a different Bible reference from Luke chapters 5 to 9. Shuffle the cards and place them in the centre of the group.

Each team takes a card, looks up the reference and completes the four questions on their handout. Once finished, they return the card to the bottom of the pile and select another. If you have a larger group, you may wish to prepare two sets of cards to ensure everyone remains involved.

The young people do not need to read each passage in detail. They are simply looking for enough information to answer the four questions. By the end of the activity, the aim is that the young people will have built a shared bank of ideas ready for the Sound Check section.

You will find a full list of the encounters, along with short leader prompts for each question, in the Appendix at the end of this session. These are simply there to use as a quick reference while the young people complete their handouts.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

Looking at all these stories together, what does Jesus seem to have authority over?

Leader's notes:

Answers include – sickness, sin, nature, death, evil, rejection etc.

 **Sound Check****Say:**

We've spent time exploring lots of different encounters with Jesus. Across all of these encounters, one question keeps appearing: who is this Jesus?

Leader's notes:

The young people can stay in the same groups to complete this activity and use their notes from the Amplify section. Using only what they discovered from the encounters, encourage them to write a short poem that begins with the lines:

Jesus,
He is the one who ...

Each line should describe something Jesus does in the encounters they have explored. Encourage them to be specific and to draw directly from the stories.

For example, instead of saying, 'He is loving,' they might write, 'He is the one who reaches out to the unreachable,'
or,
'He is the one who speaks and calms the storm.'

You may want to suggest that they write five to seven lines.

After a few minutes, invite each group to read their poem aloud to the rest of the room.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

Would you like to share your poems with the wider church? And if so, how might that look?

 **Selah****Say:**

In the Sound Check section you created a short poem describing who Jesus appears to be in the encounters we explored. Now we are going to pause and think more personally.

Instead of looking only at the stories in Luke's Gospel, we are going to reflect on our own response: who is Jesus to me?

Leader's notes:

Invite the young people to spend a few quiet minutes writing a short four-line prayer or poem in response to the question 'Who is Jesus to me?' It can follow a similar format to the Sound Check poem if that is helpful.

For example, they might begin with:

Jesus,
You are the one who ...

If appropriate, you may want to create your own four-line prayer in advance of the session to share with the group as an example.

Give the young people time to complete their prayer and invite them to share it with the rest of the group..

Coda

Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

- As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?
- What is the one thing you will take away from the many encounters you have explored today?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.



Bible reference	What happens in this encounter?	What does Jesus do?	How do the people respond?	What does this show us about who Jesus is?

Luke 5:1-11

Luke 7:36-50

Luke 5:12-15

Luke 8:22-25

Luke 5:17-26

Luke 8:26-39

Luke 5:27-32

Luke 8:40-53

Luke 6:17-19

Luke 9:10-17

Luke 7:1-10

Luke 9:37-43

Luke 7:11-17

Luke 9:51-56