

Series Title: 'Adventure of a Lifetime'

Subtitle: 'Encountering Jesus'

Primary Aim: *This series will help us to engage with Jesus as we see some of the encounters that He had with people. These encounters set us to think about some of the things that we are inherently searching for: faith, security, hope, purpose, love and joy. They provide a platform for us to think about what it might mean to follow Jesus and to begin to help others to do likewise.*

1. Finding Faith: Peter

Passages: Luke 5:1-11

Blurb: We will begin the series by thinking about the nature of faith. We apply different kinds of knowing to different situations and think about how when we come to God the appropriate kind of knowing we call faith. We will discuss 'everyday' examples of faith and how it functions in our society before asking if faith is reasonable. This sets us up to think about what it means to follow Jesus as we examine Jesus' invitation to Peter to come follow and follow Him.

2. Finding Fulfilment: The Woman at the well

Passages: John 4

Blurb: We spend a lot of time searching for fulfilment and satisfaction. Why? Because that is how God made us. We like the woman at the well search for this in all sorts of places. Jesus shows the woman that she had been looking for fulfilment in the wrong things: specifically mentioned are relationships (her six men). Instead Jesus offers her living water that will never leave us thirsty: ultimately only Jesus is able to give us fulfilment.

3. Finding Security: The Rich Young Ruler

Passages: Matthew 19:16-30

Blurb: Security is another of our deep felt needs and Jesus puts his finger on this very issue in his encounter with the Rich Young Ruler. Because Jesus told the man that he should go and give away everything that he had he ended up going away sad because he had great wealth. Peter too is astonished and asks what there will be for them who have given up everything. Jesus helps us see how we find real security in Him and in all He has for us both in the present and in the life to come.

4. Finding Hope: Jairus & the Suffering Woman

Passage: Mark 5

Blurb: This session will help us to think about the nature of hope – differentiating between what Society says about hope (using examples from film, Politics and Atheism) and Biblical Hope. Hope is more than wishful thinking but more like a confident assurance and certainty. In the story of Jairus and the suffering woman we see the contrast between hope and hopelessness. We will see how extreme situations provide us with an opportunity for hope and to trust Jesus.

5. Finding Purpose: (Weekend Away)

Passages: Matthew 8-10

Blurb: These sessions for the weekend away aim to give us some extended time to think about how we find purpose. These chapters in Matthew will help us examine the Jesus we see (three sets of miracles showing us that Jesus has power and authority), the Jesus we follow (the call of discipleship) and the Jesus we serve (hallmarks of a labourer).

6. Finding Love: The Sinful Woman

Passages: Luke 7

Blurb: This session is about love and we need to define what we mean by love given that it is such an important topic in our Society. We will think about what love is like in the Bible (esp. Agape love) and what it means to love because God first loved us. The uninvited, gate crashing sinful woman is an example of extravagant love: she washed Jesus' feet with her hair acting in love in response to the love she had received. This is in huge contrast to Simon the religious leader who kept his distance

7. Finding Joy: Angels, Shepherds & Simeon

Passages: Luke 2

Blurb: This final session is about joy and while we find joy in many things we once again find that ultimately lasting joy is found in the arrival of Jesus Christ. The angels appeared to the Shepherds and declared "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." Mary & Joseph take Jesus to the temple and Simeon is overjoyed and tells God that He can now dismiss His servant in peace for he had seen His Salvation.