

Theme: In 'Encountering Jesus,' we are reading through the Gospels together, discovering week by week the fullness of Who Jesus is as we journey through His life, teaching, ministry, death, and resurrection.

I. Encountering Jesus the True Son of God

- A. Theme: Jesus is the True Son of God Who withstood Satan's temptations and obeyed God to save us and help us to resist Satan.
- B. Text: Matthew 3:16-17; 4:1-11
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 1 Peter 5:8-10
- E. Teaching keywords: Temptation; testing and trial; Christology; Israel; Satan and demons

II. Encountering Jesus the True Rest

- A. Theme: In contrast to the pressures of life, false gods, destructive sins, and crushing legalism that create unrest, Jesus offers Himself as the true rest—calling us to learn from Him and experience the peace that comes from His presence.
- B. Text: Matthew 11:28-30
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Numbers 6:24-26
- E. Teaching keywords: Sabbath and rest; idolatry and false gods; sin; legalism; Deity of Christ; Christology

III. Encountering Jesus the Messianic Son of God

- A. Theme: Jesus challenges us to answer who He truly is—not merely a prophet or teacher, but the Messianic Son of God Who builds and sustains His Church and restores us to relationship with God.
- B. Text: Matthew 16:13-20
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Ephesians 1:17-19
- E. Teaching keywords: Christology; revelation; faith; Church; evangelism and missions

IV. Encountering Jesus the King Who Came to Die

- A. Theme: To encounter Jesus the King is to follow a crucified Messiah — and to take up a cross of your own.
- B. Text: Mark 8:31-38
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21
- E. Teaching keywords: Christology; Biblical characters; cross; discipleship

V. Encountering Jesus the Servant

- A. Theme: In a world that worships power, Jesus rules a Kingdom where His disciples are called to descend with Him into costly servanthood - for this is the mark of true greatness.
- B. Text: Mark 10:32-45
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
- E. Teaching keywords: Kingdom of God; discipleship; Christology; cross; service and servanthood

VI. Encountering Jesus the Savior

- A. Theme: When we encounter Jesus the Savior, the depth of grace and forgiveness we have received overflows into extravagant love and gratitude, and changes how we see others.
- B. Text: Luke 7:36-50
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Ephesians 1:7-8
- E. Teaching keywords: Christology; forgiveness; worship; gratitude and thanksgiving; legalism; faith

VII. Encountering Jesus In Prayer

- A. Theme: In this passage, Jesus shows that prayer is about more than requests—it shapes our hearts to reflect God’s will. We are called to pray boldly, forgive freely, depend daily, and persist faithfully, trusting our good Father.
- B. Text: Luke 11:1-13
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Matthew 6:9-13
- E. Teaching keywords: Faith; God’s Will and Guidance; Prayer

VIII. Encountering Jesus, The Absolute Good, Uncompromising Truth

- A. Theme: When the rich young ruler calls Jesus “good,” he is confronted with the truth that only God is truly good and he is helpless to manage his own salvation. Fortunately for us, God’s goodness means we are not without hope and Christ’s doing what the ruler could not, giving up everything, points us to our only source of true righteousness and real salvation.
- B. Text: Luke 18:18-30
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction:
- E. Teaching keywords: God’s character; Hope; Salvation and Deliverance; Truth

IX. Encountering Jesus the King of the Nations

- A. Theme: From the palm-waving crowds of Israel to the Greek God-fearers seeking an audience with Jesus, Palm Sunday reveals that Jesus is not merely the King of Israel but the King of all nations whose cross will draw every people, tribe, and tongue into His eternal kingdom.
- B. Text: John 12:9-33
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Psalm 67
- E. Teaching keywords: Christology; Kingdom of God; Israel; Cross; Lent and Easter

X. Encountering Jesus the Risen King

- A. Theme: John's vivid, detail-rich account of the empty tomb and the risen Jesus is the testimony of a genuine eyewitness who wants every reader to encounter the same risen King who called Mary's name that morning and transformed her grief into worship and witness.
- B. Text: John 20:1-18
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Philippians 3:10-11
- E. Teaching keywords: Easter; resurrection; Gospel; salvation and deliverance; apologetics