

# ENCOUNTER: DISCOVERING JESUS

A HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  
FOR DISCOVERING JESUS

FACILITATOR SCRIPT

“So I ask you: Are you looking for empty thrills in life, or do you want to feel a power that can give you a lasting sense of life and fulfillment? Empty thrills or the power of grace? To find fulfillment, to gain new strength, there is a way. It is not a thing or an object, but a person, and he is alive. **His name is Jesus Christ.**”

- POPE FRANCIS



Diocese of  
Green Bay

# DISCOVERING JESUS

FACILITATOR SCRIPT - HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

## Introduction

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to hear and learn about the gospel not at church, but from Jesus? Have you ever imagined what it would have been like for Jesus' 12 apostles?

To walk with Jesus, to learn from him - and to see the stories that are so familiar and that we are used to hearing, to see and experience them as they happen, that initial experience of the gospel has a fancy name - it's called the *kerygma*. It sounds intimidating but it is really just the core message of the Gospel.

Now I don't have a time machine; I can't transport you back 2000 years but today I want to invite you to discover Jesus.

This is a chance for you not just to hear, but to experience the core message of the Gospel. It may be an experience that is new or unfamiliar - and that is okay - it was new for the apostles too.

It is really simple - there are five movements and I will walk you through them.

We will have stories from the Bible, reflection, music, movies, art - and you will have the chance to write about your own personal experience as well.

Follow along - we are on the first inside page right now.

These are yours to keep, so you won't have to share it with someone you are not ready to. All I ask from you as we get started is a spirit of openness so that we can receive the message God wants us to hear.

I'll also ask that you don't distract your friend or neighbor, because you don't know what God is doing for them, and I hope that you don't want to get in God's way.

Today is an important time when God our Father, when Jesus His Son, and when the Holy Spirit can speak to you.

So I invite you to open your hearts so that, along with the disciples, we can encounter Jesus today.

## Core Gospel Framework

The core message of the Gospel is called the *kerygma*.

The *kerygma* informs the central mission and identity of the Church and the identity of every baptized Christian. The most basic form of the *kerygma* contains five elements. It is the declaration that:

- ▶ 1. God is love and has created me for relationship with Him.
- ▶ 2. I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.
- ▶ 3. Jesus restores my relationship with God through His life, death, and resurrection.
- ▶ 4. Jesus invites me to trust him, to turn from sin, and to give my life to Him.
- ▶ 5. Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church and sends His Church on mission so that others can experience that new life.



Liz Lemon Swindle, *Without Purse or Scrip*.

## 1. God is love and has created me for relationship with Him.

*(INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)*

### **Facilitator:**

Remember the day when you when you were flooded with happiness:  
The day you scored the winning point or the day you drove for the first time without Mom or Dad.  
The day you got asked to prom or the day you fell in love.  
Was it ever enough?  
Then, remember the time that you realized that you wanted more, more from life.

We are made to love and be loved.  
We hunger for acceptance  
We hunger for genuine relationship  
We hunger for a love that is eternal!  
This desire for God is written into each of our hearts.  
Only in God do we find the love and happiness that we are all searching for.  
We are created by God, for God. Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O God.

So as we listen to this song, reflect in your heart about this truth:  
God is Love. Our Father loves me no matter what. I am His beloved son. I am His beloved daughter.

If it is helpful, write some notes for yourself on the page.  
Let our Father call you His beloved son, or His beautiful daughter.

**Song:** Good Good Father (Chris Tomlin)  
(Refrain, Verse, Refrain)

Together, let us pray in the Words of Jesus to our Father who Loves us:

ON SCREEN: Our Father...

### **Prayer - Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

# DISCOVERING JESUS

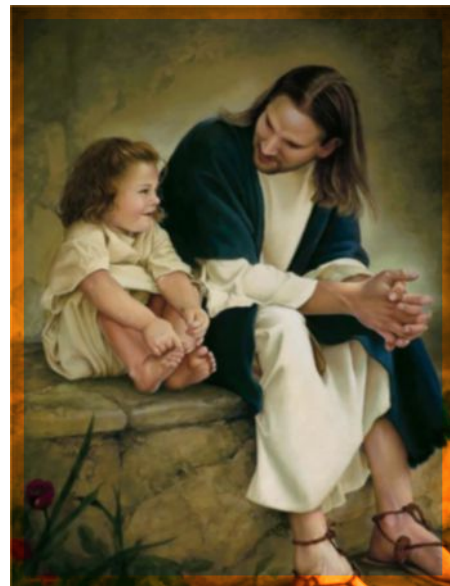
HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPANT PAGE

## 1. God is love and has created me for relationship with Him.

**Reader:** We begin with Movement 1: God is Love and has created me for relationship with Him.

**Reader:** *From the Gospel of Matthew,*

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt 3:14, 16-17)



Liz Lemon Swindle, *Friends*.

"God is love, God loves me unconditionally, I am His beloved child."

*Reflect upon the following questions and make a note of any thoughts that come to you at this time.*

When you think about love, what do you hunger most for?

Who in your life has given you an experience of unconditional love?

### **Prayer - Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## 2. I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.

*(INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)*

### **Facilitator:**

Lies, broken promises, and betrayal - they break relationships.

When you are in a friendship with someone and you continuously hurt them, your relationship becomes broken.

Refusing to admit any wrongdoing and refusing to apologize can break relationships, seemingly beyond repair.

Our relationship with God is broken because of sin. A sin is any choice that goes against God's love. It is how we say "no" to God.

Sin damages our relationships with God and with other people, leaving a trail of destruction and sorrow in its wake.

Far too often, through our actions, we have turned from God and refused to admit our failures and wrongdoing.

We hurt ourselves, hurt those we love, and break our relationship with God.

And yet, God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world in order to give back to you, to us, an even more beautiful life, an eternal life.

So as we watch this video, think about what you need to let go of so that you can be truly happy?

**VIDEO:** #FallingPlates (Cru)

Can you name the restlessness in your heart? What hurts do you want to be free of?

Let us pray together and confess our sins and sorrows to God:

ON SCREEN: I confess...

### **Prayer - The Confiteor**

I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen.

## 2. I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.

**Reader:** I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.

**Reader:** *From the Gospel of Luke,*

After arresting Jesus they led him away. Peter was following at a distance. They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter sat down with them. When a maid saw him seated in the light, she looked intently at him and said, "This man too was with Jesus." But Peter denied it saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A short while later someone else saw him and said, "You too are one of them"; but Peter answered, "My friend, I am not." About an hour later, still another insisted, "Assuredly, this man too was with him, for he also is a Galilean." But Peter said, "My friend, I do not know what you are talking about." Just as he was saying this, the cock crowed, and Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Peter went out and began to weep bitterly. (Lk 22:54-62)



Rembrandt, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*.

What is the one thing you want to let go of in order to be truly happy?

What name can you give to the restlessness in your heart?

What ache and hurt do you want to be free of?

### **Prayer - The Confiteor**

I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen.

## 3. Jesus restores my relationship with God through His life, death, and resurrection.

*(INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)*

### **Facilitator:**

Broken, beaten, spit upon, despised, taunted, battered, whipped, tortured, mocked, crucified. Died. Buried and rose again.

All to bring you to new life. Jesus died so that you may live.

He wants your whole heart.

Not just a small piece but all of you.

He loves you and wants to be in an intimate and close relationship with you.

He came that you might have life.

Jesus loves you, He gave His life to save you, and now He is living at your side every day.

Jesus can give you a whole new life...if you are willing to leave the old behind.

Jesus knocks at the door of your heart and asks you to give your life to Him.

As we listen to this next song, focus on this one question:

What difference has Jesus made to my life?

It's great to jot down a few notes for yourself because this might just be the most important question of today and it might just be the most important question of your life.

What difference has Jesus made to my life?

**SONG:** Were You There

(2 Verses)

Together let us pray the Apostles Creed:

ON SCREEN: I believe...

### **Prayer - The Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



## 3. Jesus restores my relationship with God through His life, death, and resurrection.

**Reader:** Jesus restores my relationship with God through His life, death, resurrection.

**Reader:** *From the Gospel of Luke,*

What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance. (Lk 15:4-7)



Simon Dewey, *Painting*.

Two others, both criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Lk 23:32-34)

**Reflection:** Jesus died so that you may live. He wants your whole heart. Not just a small piece but all of you. He loves you and wants to be in an intimate and close relationship with you. Pope Francis says that "Jesus Christ loves you, he gave his life to save you, and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free you" (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, #164).

What difference has Jesus made to my life?

### **Prayer - The Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

## 4. Jesus invites me to trust Him, to turn from sin, and to give my life to Him.

(INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)

### **Facilitator:**

More books have been written about Him than any other figure in history. Two thousand years later, the world is still intrigued by Him. What have you heard people say about who Jesus is? A good guy? Prophet? Teacher? God? Regardless of what other people say about Jesus, go right to the source. What did Jesus say about Himself? He tells "I am the Savior." I am your Savior.

Imagine one day, that while you are out walking that you stumble into quicksand and start sinking. At first you try to pull yourself out but the more you struggle to free yourself, the quicker and deeper you sink. You begin panicking and look around searching for someone to help you. What do you need right at that moment? You don't need a teacher, a friend, or a philosopher to talk you through your situation. You need someone to save you! You need a person who grabs you by the hand and pulls you out of the quicksand.

God's answer to your struggle in quicksand is Jesus Christ. Jesus as our Lord and Savior intervenes for each one of us to save us from the quicksand of our life that we call sin. He died for you, rose from the dead for you, and ascended into Heaven for you. He wants you to give your entire life to Him.

It does not matter how many times you have said "no" to Him or taken your eyes off of Him. Jesus wants to restore your relationship with Him and invite you to trust Him.

So tonight I invite you to consider handing your entire life over to Jesus: your family, friends, money, sports, school, clubs, boyfriend, girlfriend, your desire for happiness, desires to be held, to be whole.

Give it all to Jesus. Trust Him.

As we listen to this song, you can write down any obstacles, and then, tonight, make your own commitment to Jesus!

**SONG:** How He Loves  
(Refrain, Verse, Refrain)

Let's pray this prayer from St. Ignatius:

ON SCREEN: Take, O Lord...

### **Prayer - Suscipe - St. Ignatius of Loyola**

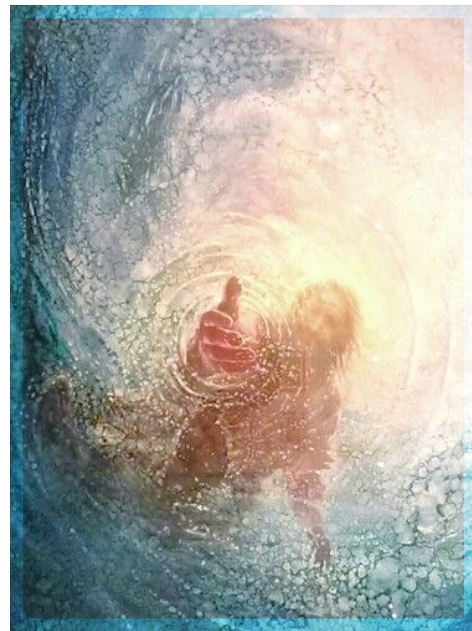
Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess, you have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen.

## 4. Jesus invites me to trust Him, to turn from sin, and to give my life to Him.

**Reader:** Jesus invites me to trust Him, to turn from sin, and to give my life to Him.

**Reader:** *From the Gospel of Matthew,*

Jesus had the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side. The boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him. (Mt 14:22-31)



Yongsung Kim, *Save Me - the Hand of God.*

Write down any obstacles that you have in handing your life over to Jesus:

Today, make your own commitment to Jesus.

### **Prayer - Suscipe - St. Ignatius of Loyola**

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess, you have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen.

5. Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church and sends His Church on mission so that others can experience that new life.

*(INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)*

**Facilitator:**

Rejoicing in the life that Jesus pours into us, let us repent and believe in the Good News! Let us become Jesus' disciples, recognizable by His love, and nourished by His body and blood in the Eucharist. Our old way of life is gone, the new is here. For Jesus ascended to the Father so that He might send us His Holy Spirit, who renews the face of the earth. The Spirit makes each one of us new.

As we allow the Spirit to teach us and renew our minds and hearts, we become ever more aware of our intimacy with Jesus and with one another.

As disciples, the Holy Spirit remains with us and gives us the gifts which make it possible for us to live this new life in Christ- faith, hope, love. Believing in Jesus is sharing in His Spirit.

In that love we are invited to become His disciples everywhere. For He is with us to the end of all time. He does not want us to be miserable. No, He desires our joy. He comes that we might have life and have it in abundance!

So as we listen to this song, reflect on how you are open to the Holy Spirit, how the Church has been present in your story, and where the Holy Spirit might be calling you to share your story and share in the Church's mission.

**SONG:** Holy Spirit You Are Welcome Here  
(Refrain, Verse, Refrain)

Together, let's call on the power of the Holy Spirit:

ON SCREEN: Come Holy Spirit...

**Prayer - Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love,  
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us Pray.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord,  
Amen.

# DISCOVERING JESUS

HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPANT PAGE

5. Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church and sends His Church on mission so that others can experience that new life.

**Reader:** Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church and sends His Church on mission so that others can receive that new life.

**Reader:** *From the Gospel of John,* Jesus said "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find peace. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. (Jn 10:8,10)



St. Raphael Parish - Oshkosh, *I am Here.*

How am I open to the Holy Spirit today?

How has the life of the Church (celebration of the sacraments, saints, devotions, specific people from your parish community) been present in your story?

In what ways do you have a sense that the Holy Spirit is calling you to share your story and share in the Church's mission?

## **Prayer - Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love,  
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us Pray.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord,  
Amen.



## Processing the Kerygma Experience

That's the *kerygma*. That's the core Gospel message.

We are created for a relationship of love with God. We break that relationship by our sin but Jesus restores it by His life, death, and resurrection. He invites us to trust in Him and He pours the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

It doesn't have to be any more complicated than that.

It has been said that we need to hear the *kerygma* (or core message of the Gospel) proclaimed as the *kerygma* many times in order for it to take root in our hearts. This may be your first time hearing this message or it may be a message that you know well and have heard many times.

During this exercise, you may feel a great sense of joy, peace, sadness, points of resistance, or obstacles. Acknowledge how you feel. Don't be afraid to confront these obstacles; God already knows them and will help you through them. Take time to give thanks for the opportunity to hear the Gospel in this way.

- As you reflect upon the overall experience, how do you feel?
- What was the hardest for you? Why?
- Who can you share your experience with?
- How did this experience help you to see Jesus more clearly?

### **Prayer:**

*Christ Has No Body but Mine, Adapted from St. Teresa of Avila*

Christ has no body now but my body,  
No hands, no feet on heart but my hands, my feet,  
It is my eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but my body.

## Processing the Kerygma Experience



“The subject of proclamation is Christ who was crucified, died, and is risen: through him is accomplished our full and authentic liberation from evil, sin and death; through him God bestows ‘new life’ that is divine and eternal. This is the ‘Good News’ which changes man and his history, and which all peoples have a right to hear.”  
- St. Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio* #44

It has been said that we need to hear the *kerygma* (or core message of the Gospel) proclaimed as the *kerygma* many times in order for it to take root in our hearts. This may be your first time hearing this message or it may be a message that you know well and have heard many times.

During this experience, you may feel a great sense of joy, peace or sadness or points of resistance or obstacles. Acknowledge how you feel. Don't be afraid to confront these obstacles: God already knows them and will help you through them. Take time to give thanks for the opportunity to hear the Gospel in this way.

- As you reflect upon the overall experience, what thoughts come to mind? What did you feel?
- Which movement of the kerygma was the hardest for you? Why?
- Which movement of the kerygma was the easiest for you to relate to? Why?
- What insight came to you through this experience that was new or different for you?

*Close your reflection time with prayer:*

### **Christ Has No Body but Mine**

Christ has no body now but my body,  
No hands, no feet on earth but my hands, my feet,  
It is my eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but my body.

*(Adapted from St. Teresa of Avila, 1515–1582)*