



Exploring Encounter Prayer

Creating a space for people to meet with the Living God

Testing what comes to us - using Encounter Prayer

Pray



- Father, I thank you that it's your desire for us to know you, to encounter you and to find space to connect with you. I pray that you would show me how I can use these prayer times to grow in my faith and also to share with others who struggle to know you.

Amen.

Video 5.1 Testing



*When we sense Jesus speaking to us, how do we know it is actually his voice?
What does it mean to 'test the spirits'?*

Questions to think about



- Have you ever been given 'words' that have not been helpful?
- What did you do about it?
- What would you have preferred the person (who gave the words) to have done?

This course has been about introducing the concept of 'Encounter Prayer'.

- How has this helped you?
- Has it made any difference?
- What has been learnt through it?

Video 5.2



This video looks at different ways that Encounter Prayer can be used:

In personal prayer

As a way of praying for other people

When praying for a group of people

Reflect on the video



Take some time to think about how you may be able to use encounter prayer in the three ways that John outlined.

Video 5.3 A time to encounter God



The script of this prayer time is printed on the next page

Reflect on the video



- How did you engage with the Father's love?
- What was the glimpse of His presence that Jesus gave to you? Did He whisper something to you?
- Did you have a sense that the Spirit of God was seeking to do something in you?
- Why do you think God chose to say these things to you right now?

Write down your thoughts and come back to them again to find more of His love, presence and power.

Encounter prayer script 5:3

Father, Abba Father

You are the Father of all creation and you are our Abba Father

You hold the whole world in your hands and you hold us as well

Father our worship today is to stand in this place of your love.

To know and rely on that love.

To know that we are your beloved sons/daughters and that you delight in us.

Just find that as something personal for you - his delight in you.

Father thank you for that love that we can stand in, that it is for us

Father we thank you that you loved this world so much, you loved us so much, that you gave us Jesus.

Jesus, we worship you.

You fill this whole universe.

You fill the rooms where we are.

You are here.

I wonder where would you say Jesus is for you right now?

You might have a sense of Him around you, beside you, in front of you, behind you. There might be a picture of you and He in some other scene. Perhaps you are catching that peace from Him.

Find that glimpse of His presence.

And as he's there whether you sense anything or not, what is it you want to bring to him.

Remember He loves you. Nothing you say will turn Him away from you. We can be as honest as we like.

Share with Him.

As you do that I wonder what you sense He

wants to communicate with you.

That communication might come in a variety of ways - a thought that might drop into your mind, a picture, a bible verse, a song or hymn that seems to come to you that wasn't there before. What is it He's bringing to you?

You might want to enter into a conversation about that. Just enjoy that time.

Holy Spirit, living, active Spirit dwelling within us.

Holy Spirit we call to mind the fruits that are a reflection of your nature. That you are love, you are gentleness, you are patience, you are kindness.

Holy Spirit because you dwell within us you know everything about us. So we ask you Holy Spirit. We need you so much.

Bring us that strength for our lives, that grace in our situations. Bring us the healing touch of God.

And so just stay in an attentiveness and a faith that He is at work now.

You might want to find some expression of thankfulness. Thanking Him for what He is doing whether you feel it or not. Thanking Him for that indwelling love Thanking Him for that ongoing transformation.

Thank you

Amen

You may want to take a moment to reflect and call to mind what happened during that time. How did you engage with the Father's love? What was the glimpse of His presence that Jesus gave to you? Did He whisper something to you? Did you have a sense that the Spirit of God was seeking to do something in you - write it down and come back to Him at any time and find anew that love, that presence and that power.