



A SPACE TO MEET WITH
THE LIVING GOD FOR
**RELATIONSHIP • HEALING
TRANSFORMATION**

ENCOUNTER GROUPS

The role of facilitator

Encounter Prayer is a powerful prayer tool as it allows you to stand alongside others without having to come up with all the answers yourself. It is a great privilege to be a Facilitator as you get to see God at work in the lives of his people, and what's more - we suspect that you will soon discover that as you serve others you also receive yourself!

The role of a facilitator is to oversee a small group and encourage the participants to reflect on their experience during the Group Encounter.

Before you take on this role, please watch the short training video provided by your group leader and read this information sheet, particularly making sure that you understand CHM's Core Values for all Encounter Groups.

In your small group (about 15 minutes depending on the number in your group)

Introduce yourself and explain that this is a time for individual sharing, and perhaps suggest a running order in which they share.

As confidentiality in a group session cannot be guaranteed, please do your best to ensure that no one shares more than is appropriate in that limited setting.

Make certain that there is time for each member to share along the lines of (see crib sheet below):

- Did they experience something of the presence of Jesus during that time?
- What was he like?
- What did he share with them?
- Why did he particularly want them to know this?
- What difference will this make to them in the days ahead? Are they able to hold on to it?

Feel free to be flexible by:

- adding any questions of your own
- leaving out some of those above if they do not seem appropriate
- choosing whether to share your own experience
- deciding whether you want to pray for them – if you do, keep it quite general as it is not intended to be a ministry session

It is most important that each participant:

- has equal opportunity to share
- leaves feeling encouraged
- is discouraged from offering advice and/or praying for others in the group

If something rather shocking or concerning is shared, remain calm and respond along the lines of, "Thank you so much for sharing this. I appreciate your honesty." No one should feel condemned for sharing something deeply personal. If you are concerned about their safety, try to ascertain whether they have any support network where they live, and be certain to tell your leader at the debriefing session so that they can determine whether any follow-up action is needed.

If the group is quiet and people do not share much, possible aids to conversations are:

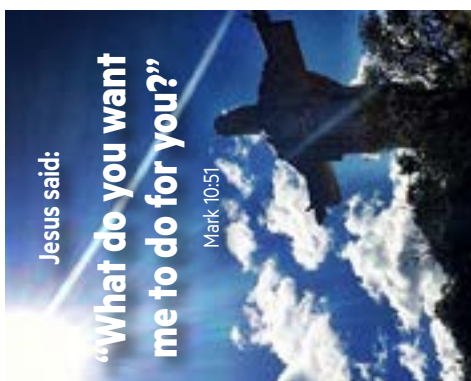
- Explain the basics of encounter prayer and encourage them to try it at home
- Point them to CHM's resources:
 - www.encounterprayer.net
 - [YouTube](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#)
 - Encourage them to sign up for CHM's free 'Thought for the Day' (via website)

General Good Sense!

- Ensure nothing inappropriate is visible in the background of your screen!
- Do not give your personal contact details to anyone you do not know personally.
- Avoid getting drawn into controversial topics or anything that could easily be misconstrued, particularly as you may be running the breakout room on your own.
- Avoid giving advice.
- Exercise caution and be vigilant if one participant begins to advise or pray for another.
- For the sake of the others in your group, have some idea of how you would handle an unexpected, tricky situation should it arise, eg if someone becomes distressed, begins to share inappropriately or use bad language.
- Encourage anyone who is tempted to make a life-changing decision to consult with someone who has pastoral care over them first and discourage any changes to medication without first consulting a doctor.

Afterwards

Debriefing - you will be invited to join a brief feed-back meeting for the leader and facilitators that begins straight after the session ends.



ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

- Did they experience something of the presence of Jesus during that time?
- What was he like?
- What did he share with them?
- Why did he particularly want them to know this?
- What difference will this make to them in the days ahead? Are they able to hold on to it?

