

# Ten Encounter Scripture Reflections Suitable for Summer Term



*It is important to use this Encounter early on when any groups are starting and at the beginning of a term as a reminder, to introduce and reinforce the idea of the symbolism of the candles in Encounter*

## **Jesus, Light of the World**

**Prop:** The large candle you will use for Encounter.

**Reading:** John 8:12

**Comment:** I wonder if you ever feel life is 'dark'? Perhaps you are unhappy or upset? Life feels 'dark' at these times. Look at how the candle burns brightly. Can you see what Jesus means about being the Light of the World? He is always shining brightly for you no matter how 'dark' your life feels. This candle is always burning during Encounter to remind us that Jesus, Light of the World, is always with us.

***This Encounter might be used soon after Easter***

**Life to the full**

**Prop:** An attractive, intriguing box/container which looks like it might have something really special in it.

**Reading:** John 10:10b

**Comment:** Ask them what they think might be in the box or container. Comment on how special it looks. Ask if they would like you to open it. Open it carefully, and be really pleased that it's empty! Surprising? Because it reminds you of the Easter story and the empty tomb. Disciples were disappointed, as you may have been, that the tomb was empty. But because it was empty, we now know we can have a full, meaningful and eternal life in Jesus. Jesus can fill our lives when we feel empty too.

***These Encounters can be used at any time***

**A time for everything**

**Prop:** Large clock.

**Reading:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

**Comment:** God has chosen this time for you to be alive. I wonder why?

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**Lost and found**

**Prop:** Something you use regularly at Encounter, hidden somewhere in the room

**Reading:** Luke 19:10

**Comment:** Start to look for whatever you've hidden until you 'find' it! Isn't it annoying when you lose something you really need? But do you ever feel 'lost'? Like you're not sure that you should be where you are or doing what you're doing, but you don't know what else you can do?

Jesus will find us at those times, if we let him find us! (Reading) If you feel lost today, close your eyes, and imagine Jesus coming to find you.

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**Picturing God**

**Prop:** A couple 'traditional' pictures of God the Father looking like His 'stereotype!' e.g. The creation of Adam. Also pictures of a loving 'daddy' (see Further Resources)

**Reading:** Galatians 4:6

**Comment:** Pass round the traditional pictures. Ask 'I wonder how you picture God? No one really knows, but the Bible says He is more like this' (pass around the 'daddy' pictures). Read verse. 'Abba' means 'daddy' in Aramaic, the language Jesus used. Jesus called Him 'Daddy'. When we trust Jesus, we can call Him 'Daddy' too. God is our loving, powerful daddy! Wow!

### The wish list

**Prop:** Pictures of some of the things we need, and some of the things we may want.

**Reading:** Luke 11:10

**Comment:** I wonder which of these things we might ask for that we need, and which we might ask for that we want? God promises to give us all we need.

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### In the thoughts of God

**Prop:** A teaspoon of sand in the palm of each person's hand. 'I wonder how many grains of sand there are in your hand?'

**Reading:** Psalm 139:17-18

**Comment:** God thinks about YOU all the time!

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### Looking for help

**Props:** Pictures of bullies (see Further Resources).

**Reading:** Hebrews 13:6

**Comment:** Have a look at the pictures. Someone is being bullied in each of them. Bullying is horrible, isn't it? I wonder if you've ever been bullied? The Bible says at times like that, we can remember God is stronger than anyone or anything, and He is with us. At school, we have people to help us too, don't we?

***This Encounter could be especially helpful in the run-up to SATs***

### A place to unwind

**Prop:** Pictures of people who are busy (see Further Resources).

**Reading:** Mark 6:30-31

**Comment:** Look at these busy, busy people. Wonder what they're all up to. Wonder if they're feeling stressed.

We're so busy at the moment. Getting ready for SATs, always lots to do. I wonder if you feel stressed?

The disciples had been busy, coming and going. Jesus saw they were getting stressed. He knew they needed to relax. He knows how you feel too. He said, 'Come away with me, by yourself, to a quiet place and get some rest.' Jesus offers a quiet place to us now, too. Encounter, but a place we can go to at home? In bed? Last thing at night, first thing in the morning, know that quiet place with Jesus, who understands how we are feeling.

***These Encounters would be suitable for the end of the school year***

**The plan**

**Props:** Walk guide book and or map.

**Reading:** Jeremiah 29:11

**Comment:** I wonder if you've ever been lost? I love going for walks in new places, but I often get lost. That's why I always take a guide book or a map with me. It's even better if you're with someone who already knows the way to go!

As we face a new school, we may be worried about getting lost, maybe literally getting lost, or losing our friends our teachers and not knowing where we should go.

God tells us that He has a fantastic plan for all of us. In the Bible He says, 'I know the plans I have for you.'

As we begin something new and we are worried about some things, remember you can depend on God to be with you, to show you the way, and to show you the great life He has in store for you.

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**Props:** Board from a game with a start, and a finish. Alpha and Omega printed out large (see Further Resources).

**Reading:** Revelation 22:13

**Comment:** Show board from game. Some people say they think life is like a game. There is a beginning and an end.

But life has lots of beginnings and ends, doesn't it? You're about to have an end and a beginning, aren't you? The end of your school year, the beginning of the holidays, perhaps looking towards a new school (other schools) Beginnings and ends are really exciting, but they can be scary too. Jesus said (read passage). Explain Alpha and Omega. Jesus will always be there at the beginning and the end. We can know he's there at the beginning of our new school or class even before we are, and will be there at the end of anything too, if we feel sad.