

# A SERIES OF ~~UN~~FORTUNATE EVENTS ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

...we know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him, and are called according to his good purpose." Romans 8:28 (NCV)

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! Ephesians 3:20

## We need to remember:

- The only thing that limits God's power in my life is me.

..."As far as possibilities go, everything is possible for the person who believes." Mark 9:23

...because the people did not have any faith, Jesus did not work many miracles there. Matthew 13:58 (CEV)

...the report of his (Jesus') power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases... Luke 5:15 (NLT)

## If you want to encounter Jesus:

- We have to recognize our need for Jesus.

And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus. Luke 5:17 (NLT)

## Spectators vs. Participants:

- Spectators look at people, participants look to Jesus.
- Spectators stand back, participants step in.
- Spectators do nothing, participants do something.
- Spectators remain the same, participants are changed.
- If we don't recognize our need for Jesus, he will be an entertainer rather than a savior.

## If you want to encounter Jesus:

- We also need the right influences in our life.

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33

We need people who are influencing us to where God is directing us.

A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses. Proverbs 27:19 (TLB)

- The people in your life determine where you end up in life.

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26

Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat... Luke 5:18 (NLT)

They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Luke 5:17-19 (NLT)

## When it comes to friends:

- Few friends are true friends.

Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family.

Proverbs 18:24 (MSG)

- The love of true friends is greater than the obstacles you face together.

"Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble." Proverbs 17:17

...they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Luke 5:17-19 (NLT)

Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven." Luke 5:20 (NLT)

- True friends have faith for their friends.

But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!" Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!" Luke 5:17-26 (NLT)

## Action Steps:

- Who do you have faith for?

Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven." Luke 5:20 (NLT)

- Who are you willing to bring to Jesus?

And now, through Christ, all the kindness of God has been poured out upon us undeserving sinners; and now he is sending us out around the world to tell all people everywhere the great things God has done for them, so that they, too, will believe and obey him. Romans 1:5 (TLB)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

### Questions for Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Are you able to recognize God's activity even in the chaos of your life? How are you experiencing Jesus in your unfortunate circumstances?
- How do we limit God's power in our lives?
- How do we, in the church, fail to recognize our need of Jesus? How does that limit our encounters with God?
- Why do we need the right influences in our lives? What are some qualities of the right influences we need?
- Why are few friends true friends? What are some obstacles that we need to overcome that prevent us from being true friends?
- In a practical way, what does it mean to have faith for our friends?
- Do you currently have a friend that you have faith for? Without naming them, what are you believing God to do in their life?

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