

Women Who Encountered Jesus – Week 1

There are many instances in the New Testament wherein a profound interaction between women and Jesus had left a solid mark on the lives of individuals, as this mark prodded these women to *change* what they knew concerning the Lord. Not only did the encounter with Christ *change* what they knew, the encounter *transformed* how they lived and went about their business. Perhaps for the very first time, these women, upon encountering Jesus, recognized first, that the interaction they had with Him was *met in the middle* of their shame, suffering, faith, grief, service, worship, and mission, and further, recognition that Jesus was ultimately *at the center* of their lives, and that made all the difference.

Over the next *eight weeks*, we will examine the encounters of women with Jesus in Scripture and discover how encountering Christ *transforms* our identity, faith, relationships, and calling. Today, we look at:

Person: *Mary, the mother of Jesus*

Scripture: *Luke 1:26-38*

Big Idea: *An encounter with Jesus doesn't always give us all the answers, but it calls us to trust God when we do not understand.*

Ice-Breaker Question: *When have you had to trust God without knowing the outcome?*

Discussion Questions

- 1) What would it have felt like to be Mary?
- 2) What do you notice about Mary's initial response?
- 3) Why do you think Mary asked questions?
- 4) What is the difference between questioning God and doubting God?
- 5) Why might surrender be difficult?
- 6) What does Mary's statement, "I am the servant of the Lord", reveal about her faith?
- 7) Is there something in your life you don't understand right now?
- 8) What would trusting God look like in that situation?

Personal Reflection (Complete this)

"Lord, I don't understand _____, but I choose to trust You with _____."

Action Step:

Pray Mary's prayer every morning: "I am the servant of the Lord."