



Spend time with people where they are comfortable and discover Jesus together.

### **GATHERING AND ENCOUNTERING JESUS**

Did you ever notice how often Jesus ate with people? He was a master at turning ordinary meals into extraordinary gatherings. In Luke 10, Jesus even told His disciples to eat a meal with people before introducing them to the message of the kingdom!

Facilitating a discussion about Jesus' teachings over a meal or drinks is a simple way to create an atmosphere where people can discover Jesus for themselves. It's also a great way to deepen friendships!

### **THE 7 SIGNS OF JESUS**

The *7 Signs of Jesus* is one of the simplest, yet most powerful, tools you can use with a group to discuss a story about Jesus.

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31)

The book of John describes seven miracles or signs Jesus performed:

1. Changing water into wine (John 2:1-11)
2. Healing the royal official's son (John 4:46-54)
3. Healing the paralytic at the pool (John 5:1-18)
4. Feeding over 5,000 with fish and loaves (John 6:1-14)
5. Walking on the water (John 6:15-25)
6. Healing a man born blind (John 9:1-41)
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-46)



The purpose of miracles or signs is for people to believe that Jesus is the Christ. When you gather, read one of the *7 Signs of Jesus* together. Ask three simple questions:

1. What does this tell us about people?
2. What does this tell us about Jesus?
3. How does this encourage you or apply to your life?

### HELPFUL TIPS

- Consider printing the story and handing them out so everyone can read along and get involved.
- Take turns reading a few verses out loud until you finish the story. Then discuss the three questions above.
- Ask someone to retell the story in their own words.
- Affirm that there are no right or wrong answers. The group is a safe place to connect with each other and learn insights about God.
- Focus on interaction more than information. Give people space and time to discover Jesus for themselves.
- Be involved in the discussion, but focus on leading others to read the Scriptures and let the Holy Spirit give them insights.
- Ask when they would like to meet again.

You'll be amazed at how powerfully the Holy Spirit will speak to people, even those who are reading Jesus' words for the first time. This method of reading and applying the Scriptures together forms a precedent as you grow into a group of disciples.

**EXPERIENCE:** (30 minutes) Practice leading a discussion about Jesus using the *7 Signs of Jesus* (or other tool). Discuss how it went afterward.



**Brainstorm some HOWs on the GATHER rhythm circle on your dMAP.**