

Bible Study Guide: Encountering Jesus – Declaring “My Lord, My God”

 Source Transcript:

Big Idea

A true encounter with Jesus leads us to declare Him as “My Lord, My God,” shifting our identity, priorities, and daily life.

Theme

Faith is not just believing Jesus exists—it is surrendering to His lordship and living transformed by His presence.

Core Scriptures

John 20:24–29

“Thomas said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”

John 20:21

“Peace be with you.”

Introduction: What Happens After Easter?

Easter is not something we achieve—it is something **God accomplished for us.**

Key Insight:

“You didn’t do anything for Easter—God did everything for you.”

- You didn’t go to the cross
- You didn’t sit in the tomb
- You didn’t earn salvation

Yet:

- God did it anyway
- Out of love

The Shift After Easter

After Easter:

- Jesus begins to involve people
- He sends Mary to tell the disciples
- He creates encounters

“Now it’s about encountering people.”

Main Point 1: Jesus Meets Us in Personal Encounters

Explanation

Post-resurrection, Jesus:

- Appears to Mary
- Walks with the disciples on the road to Emmaus
- Meets the disciples behind locked doors

Each encounter is:

- Personal
- Intentional
- Transformational

“Jesus meets people where they are.”

Spiritual Truth

Encounters often happen in:

- Grief
- Fear
- Doubt
- Confusion

Application

- Where do I need an encounter with Jesus?
- Am I open to Him meeting me personally?

Sticky Quote:

“Jesus meets you in your reality—not your perfection.”

Main Point 2: We Still Experience Encounters Today

Explanation

Encounters with Jesus did not stop in Scripture.

“These post-resurrection stories are still being written today.”

Spiritual Insight

Encounters today:

- Are deeply personal
- Often happen in hidden moments
- Require courage to share

Challenge

Many hesitate to share because:

- It feels too personal
- Fear of judgment
- Fear of misunderstanding

Application

- Have I experienced a personal encounter with Christ?

- Am I willing to share it?

Sticky Quote:

“Your story of encountering Jesus could unlock someone else’s faith.”

Main Point 3: Doubt is Part of the Faith Journey

Explanation

Thomas:

- Missed the encounter
- Refused to believe without proof

“Even believers doubt.”

Spiritual Truth

Doubt is:

- Normal
- Human
- Not the end

Examples:

- Disciples ran in fear
- Thomas doubted
- Even strong believers struggle

Application

- What doubts am I facing right now?
- Am I being honest with God about them?

Sticky Quote:

“Doubt doesn’t disqualify you—it invites you deeper.”

Main Point 4: We Must Be Honest About Our Struggles

Explanation

Thomas did not hide his doubt:

- He voiced it
- He owned it

“You’ve got to vocalize your struggle.”

Spiritual Insight

Many people:

- Suffer in silence
- Pretend to be strong
- Hide their struggles

But God invites:

- Honesty

- Openness
- Authentic faith

Application

- Am I hiding my struggles?
- Who can I be honest with about my faith journey?

Sticky Quote:

“Faith grows when honesty replaces pretending.”

Main Point 5: Jesus Meets Us Without Shame

Explanation

When Jesus returns:

- He does not shame Thomas
- He does not ridicule him
- He meets him in his need

“Jesus meets him in his need.”

Spiritual Truth

Jesus responds with:

- Grace
- Compassion
- Understanding

Application

- Do I expect condemnation from Jesus—or compassion?
- How can I reflect that same grace to others?

Sticky Quote:

“Jesus meets your doubt with grace—not shame.”

Main Point 6: Faith Moves Beyond Sight

Explanation

Jesus says:

- “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe”

Spiritual Truth

Faith is:

- Trust without proof
- Confidence in God’s presence

Key Insight

Thomas needed:

- Physical proof

But we are called to:

- Spiritual trust

Application

- What am I waiting to see before I believe?
- How can I grow in trusting God today?

Sticky Quote:

“Faith begins where sight ends.”

Main Point 7: Declaring “My Lord, My God” Changes Everything

Explanation

Thomas’ declaration is powerful:

“My Lord, my God!”

This is:

- Personal
- Surrendered
- Transformational

Spiritual Truth

Declaring Jesus as Lord means:

- He shapes your identity
- He directs your life
- He becomes your authority

“When you say ‘My Lord, My God,’ everything changes.”

Application

- Is Jesus truly Lord of my life?
- What areas have I not surrendered?

Sticky Quote:

“Jesus isn’t just Savior—He is Lord.”

Main Point 8: Misplaced “Lords” Lead to Division

Explanation

People often replace Jesus with:

- Politics
- Culture
- Personal agendas

“We are not hearing ‘My Lord, My God’—we are hearing other voices.”

Spiritual Truth

When Jesus is not Lord:

- Division increases
- Anger grows
- Identity fractures

Application

- What “voices” are shaping my life?
- Am I allowing anything to replace Christ?

Sticky Quote:

“What you follow shapes who you become.”

Main Point 9: Jesus Brings Peace When He is Lord

Explanation

Jesus’ first words:

- “Peace be with you”

Spiritual Truth

Peace comes when:

- Jesus is Lord
- Faith replaces fear

“When you say ‘My Lord, My God,’ there will be peace.”

Application

- Am I experiencing God's peace?
- What is stealing my peace right now?

Sticky Quote:

“Peace follows surrender.”

Main Point 10: Encounters Lead to Action

Explanation

Encounters are not passive:

- They lead to mission
- They lead to sharing
- They lead to transformation

“He sends us out to share the good news.”

Spiritual Truth

Real faith:

- Moves
- Acts
- Impacts others

Application

- How is my encounter with Jesus changing my actions?
- Who can I share my faith with?

Sticky Quote:

“An encounter with Jesus always leads to action.”

Discussion Questions

1. What does “My Lord, My God” mean to you personally?
 2. Where do you struggle with doubt or unbelief?
 3. How has Jesus met you in a personal way?
 4. What is currently shaping your identity more than Christ?
 5. How can you share your encounter with others?
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Practical Application Steps

1. Be Honest with God

- Bring your doubts and struggles to Him

2. Declare Jesus as Lord Daily

- Surrender control each day

3. Seek Encounters

- Be aware of God's presence

4. Remove Distractions

- Identify what is replacing Christ

5. Share Your Story

- Tell others about your encounters

Closing Prayer

Father,
Thank You for meeting us in our doubt,
loving us in our weakness,
and calling us into deeper faith.

Help us to declare,
“My Lord, my God,”
not just with our words,
but with our lives.

Give us courage to trust You,
to follow You,
and to share Your truth with others.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Final Takeaway

When Jesus becomes “My Lord, My God,” everything in your life finds its proper place—and true peace begins.