



STUDY GUIDE

March 3, 2024

Message Series:

Changed

Message Title:

An Encounter with Jesus

Teaching Pastor:

Angie Frame

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

Of all the movie or TV characters you know of, which do you identify with the most and why?

Pray:

Dear Lord, as the season of Easter preparation continues, help us to take time to reflect more intently on who You are. Renew our hope during this time, knowing You are for us and with us. Help us to pause and hear from You as we learn from Your Word and from each other. We trust in You and pray in Your Son's name, Jesus. Amen.

Get Started: (30 min.)

- Do you tend to embrace or resist change? *(After everyone shares, say, "During this Easter series, we're going to look at people in the Bible who are changed by the approach to that first Easter.")*
- Talk about a time you enjoyed sharing your faith with others.

Read Romans 14:13 & Matthew 23:13-14.

"In our zeal for helping as many people as possible experience the truth and goodness of Jesus, we sometimes end up causing harm. By "we," I don't necessarily mean you and me, although I think we're all capable if we're not careful. I mean the collective group of people who call themselves Christians or followers of Jesus. As a group, we have often been people who accost others with words about Jesus too aggressively, too soon, with too much pressure. When we do that, instead of our excitement being contagious, it becomes a barrier." -Pastor Angie Frame

- Have you ever been in a situation where you had been driven away, or that you have driven people away, from church or from faith in God?

Read John 18:10 & Luke 22:50-51.

"Malchus, a little-known person in a little-known part of this story in the Bible... was in a low position, a servant, or slave. And his life is changed. But not in a good way, at least at first. His ear is chopped off. Now, that just seems bizarre to us..."

Here's a man who is standing in a garden near Jesus, possibly through no choice of his own. He's following orders. And he is a victim of violence. He's harmed in a way that is painful, debilitating, and life-altering....His proximity to Jesus causes his pain. That's a hard truth to acknowledge, to stomach. But it's happened more times than we know." -Pastor Angie Frame

- What strikes you most about the brief story of Malchus or from the message by Pastor Angie?
- Who do most identify with, Peter or Malchus? Why?

Watch and Discuss Video: (Running time 9 min./20 min. discussion)

Pastor Angie focused on Matthew 7:21-22 and then read beyond that. Let's take it a step further and read a section before that passage....**Read Matthew 7:15-28.**

- How do these sections tie together?
- How can you know whether Jesus knows you?
- How can you do the will of Jesus in your life? How have you put Jesus' words into practice this past week? Or how can you think of a way you could put His words into practice this week?

Read Matthew 5:16.

Reflect and Commit: (15 min.)

Read 1 Corinthian 3:6-11.

- How do these verses connect with your life?

"Wherever you are, whichever man you identify with, this Easter, let's be changed. Let's commit to helping people know Jesus, not by defending him or trying to protect him, but by making a clear and easy path for people to get close to him. Let's invite them to church with love and grace, not guilt or shame ...

And this Easter, let's make sure that we are not just in proximity to Jesus, but personally connected to Him. We can take a step toward that right now. Because He's here; he's with us." -Pastor Angie Frame

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Lord, we trust that You are in our midst and at work in our lives. Help us to stand in Your light so we can shine Your light. With each passing day we desire to be transformed into Your likeness. May our words and actions be fruitful offering a message of faith, peace, love and grace to those around us. And may we do Your will and build our lives upon Jesus Christ. It's in His name that we pray. Amen.