

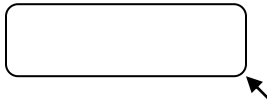
## ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

You do not have to be a Christian or know anything about the Bible to enjoy these Ohana group materials.

You do not have to read, talk, sing, pray or share during the group time if you do not feel comfortable doing so. You are welcome to simply come and listen.

These materials are designed to help people examine the Bible to see what it says about Jesus -- who he is, what he is like and how he can be relevant to life today.

Within the session guides you will find links to other topics on what Jesus said about various subjects such as *Who He Is, Baptism, Holy Spirit*, etc. Some of the links will also include His practical teachings on *money, marriage, conflict resolution*, etc. Whenever you see one of the link symbols --



-- it is an opportunity for your group to decide if they want to go to that link for the next session. This way, the group can tailor-make each session to fit the needs of the group. If there is no need for digging deeper into a particular topic, then your group should move to the next *Encounter With Jesus* session.

Even if the group does not want to go to a link, you may personally choose to do so. Simply ask your Ohana leader for the guide sheet on the topic that interests you. You can go through the material on your own or with a friend or another Ohana member.

Thank you for joining us on this journey toward a deeper spiritual experience through *Encounters With Jesus*.

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## IN A BARN

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other. Get better acquainted and *hook* into the topic by sharing with each other where you were born and why you were given the name you were given, if you know.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some Christmas carols. (Even if it is in July!) Invite someone to pray.

### WORD

- ❖ ***Book*** -- Read Matthew 1:18-25 and then go around the circle and ask each person to share what one verse most grabbed their attention.

- ❖ ***Book*** -- Read Luke 2:1-7

If someone has a map in the back of their Bible, let them share with the group where Nazareth was in connection with Bethlehem. Do you have any idea what the distance was between the two cities?

- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** for the next section:

- ❖ ***Look*** at what the ***Book*** (Bible passage) means:

- Why did Joseph and Mary make this trip?
  - How do you feel about the fact that “there was no room for them in the inn”? What does this tell you about Jesus?
- ❖ ***Book*** --- Read Luke 2:8-20
  - Why did God announce the birth of His Son to a group of shepherds and not to the religious or community leaders?
  - How would you feel if an angel suddenly appeared before you?
  - Notice the first words the angel spoke to the shepherds. (Verse 10) What does this tell us about heaven’s consideration for the feelings of human beings?
  - What “sign” did the angel give the shepherds concerning this amazing birth announcement?

- What is the significance of the words of the song that the angels sang? (verse 14)
- Summarize your thoughts about the various ways the shepherds responded to this message:

Verse 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 16 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 20 \_\_\_\_\_

- How did other people respond? (verse 18)
- How did Mary respond? (verse 19)

❖ **Take** -- Read the following verse aloud:

Who was Jesus? Go to "What Jesus said about HIMSELF"

*Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:5-7)*

- ❖ Share with each other what you feel is the most amazing thing about the story of the birth of Jesus.
- ❖ **Return to the larger group** for the rest of the session.

### WITNESS

- ❖ Re-read Luke 2:17 and discuss together what caused the shepherds to spread the news of Christ's birth. What could encourage you and your Ohana group to talk to people about Jesus?
- ❖ Think of the people in your community who you know and pick one or two that you think would be most likely to come to your Ohana group. Put these names on a "Blessing List" and begin praying for God to bring them to the group.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by forming a circle and inviting one or two to pray.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray for your Ohana friends and the names on the Blessing List.
  - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting. You could say something like "We are meeting together in a social setting to study the Bible and find out who Jesus is, what He is like and how He can be relevant to life today."

## BY KINGS

**Advance preparation by the leader:** Get a small gift box with a lid that can be removed or decorate a box. This will be used in the **WORSHIP** time later in the evening.

### WELCOME

- ❖ Fellowship together as people arrive.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and *hook* into the topic by briefly answering this question: If money were no problem for you, what gift would you buy for someone you love very much?
- ❖ After everyone has had an opportunity to share, invite someone to have a prayer.

### WORD

- ❖ *Book* --- Read Matthew 2:1-23
- ❖ *Look* at what the *Book* (Bible passage) *means*:
- ❖ How many wise men were there?
  
- ❖ Why did they go to Jerusalem?
  
- ❖ Do you think the wise men saw a real star or was it a vision from God? Or something else?
  
- ❖ Why do you think Herod and “all Jerusalem” were troubled by the Wise Men and their question?
  
- ❖ Did the religious leaders know the answer to Herod’s question? (vs.4-6) How did they know?
  
- ❖ In this passage, how many dreams are mentioned and who had them? (vs. 12, 13, 19, 22)
  
- ❖ Notice how many Old Testament prophecies are referred to in this passage. (vs. 5, 14, 17, 18, 23) Why do you think Matthew made so many references to Old Testament prophecies?
  
- ❖ Does someone in the group have a Bible with reference notes that tell where the original prophecy was located? If so, you may wish to read the Old Testament

prophecies for these verses. (For example, Matthew 2:5 is a quote from Micah 5:2)

Note: There are over 300 references in the Old Testament of Christ's coming; all of which were written at least 400 years before He appeared! For a list of some of these prophecies, see the *Extra Reading Material* at the end of this session.

- ❖ **Took** -- Discuss together what gifts people today can give to Jesus.

## **WORSHIP**

- ❖ Give each person a few small pieces of paper and ask each one to write down a gift they would like to give Jesus. Use one piece of paper for each idea. People could also write down a praise or love note to Jesus. It is not necessary for people to sign their names. Gather up the papers and put them in the gift box. Then pass the gift box around and let each person read one or two of the notes inside until all have been read.
- ❖ Sing together some praise songs, concluding with "I Love You, Lord."
- ❖ The Ohana leader will pray a short prayer of praise and give time for anyone else to do so, too.

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the Blessing List which your group has started. Add any new names the group may have. Notice if any prayers have been answered.
- ❖ Encourage Ohana members to choose prayer partners of the same gender within the group and make contact with each other during the week.
- ❖ **This next week**
  - Pray for your Ohana friends and the names on the Blessing List.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Continue to pray and look for people to invite to the next Ohana meeting.

**ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS BY KINGS –**

Extra Reading Material  
**Some Old Testament Predictions About The Savior**

Genesis 3:15	First promise of a Savior
Genesis 22:18	The Savior-Messiah would come through Abraham's line.
Genesis 49:10	The Savior would come from the tribe of Judah. See also Numbers 24:17.
Daniel 9:24-26	The time of His first advent was predicted.
Isaiah 9:6	The Savior would come as a male child and would be both human and divine.
Micah 5:2	He would be born in Bethlehem.
Isaiah 7:14	His birth would be supernatural. Compare with Matthew 1:23.
Isaiah 61:1,2	His mission was stated.
Isaiah 53	He would be rejected and suffer for sinners.
Psalms 41:9	A close friend would betray Him.
Zechariah 11:12	He would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.
Isaiah 50:6	He would be spat upon and beaten.
Psalms 22:18	His executioners would gamble for His clothes.
Psalms 34:20	None of His bones would be broken.
Zechariah 12:10	His side would be pierced.
Psalms 16:10	His body would not stay in the grave.

## ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

### IN THE TEMPLE

#### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by sharing one holiday custom that your family followed when you were a child.

#### WORSHIP

- ❖ Go around the circle and let each person share one thing that God has done for them this past week.
- ❖ Sing together some of your favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Invite one or two to pray.

#### WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read Luke 2:21-51

This passage deals with the early years of Jesus' life. Notice the various incidents of His life by filling in the following blanks:

1. When Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ days old, He was c\_\_\_\_\_ and officially n\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Temple Visit
  - a. Blessed by S\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Thanks and witness of A\_\_\_\_\_
3. Childhood in N\_\_\_\_\_ where He became strong in s\_\_\_\_\_, filled with w\_\_\_\_\_; and the g\_\_\_\_\_ of God was upon Him.
- ❖ **Look** at what the **Book** (Bible passage) *means*: What do you feel is the most important sentence or two in verses 21-40?
4. Temple visit when Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ years old to celebrate the P\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Jesus lingered behind in J\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. His parents found Him \_\_\_\_\_ days later in the t\_\_\_\_\_, listening to the t\_\_\_\_\_ and a\_\_\_\_\_ them q\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus returned to N\_\_\_\_\_ and was s\_\_\_\_\_ to His parents. He increased in w\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_ and in favor with G\_\_\_\_\_ and m\_\_\_\_\_.



**Form into smaller groups of three or four** to do the next section:

- ❖ **Look** at what the **Book** (Bible passage) *means*: Do you see any significance in the way Jesus developed? (vs. 40, 51, 52)
  
- ❖ What do you think you would have liked about Jesus as a child or young person?
  
- ❖ Notice that Jesus' parents and Jesus Himself followed the laws given to Israel by God. Re-read verses 23, 24, 39, 42.
  
- ❖ Compare these verses with what Jesus said in Matthew 5:17. What Jesus said about *LAW*
  
- ❖ **Look** -- Do you think God expects Christians today to "fulfill" His Law? How is it possible to do this?
  
- ❖ The Bible says "Love is the fulfillment of the law." (Romans 13:10, last part)
  
- ❖ Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40)
  
- ❖ Love is the only way to fulfill the law! This means that if we have trouble obeying God's laws, we really have a love problem. Unless we have a "full tank" of love for God, we will always find it hard to do what God asks.
  
- ❖ Take a quick, personal look at your "love-for-God gauge." (You need not share this with anyone.) Pencil in where you are, spiritually, at this time:

Full

Three-quarters full

Half-full

One-fourth full

Empty



- ❖ Discuss together: What does it take to be filled with God's love?  
**Return to the larger group.**

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the Blessing List, getting an update on any prayer answers and adding any new names the group may have.
- ❖ Invite each person in the group to think of three people they know who live in the community whom they would like to see become a part of the Ohana group.
- ❖ Encourage each other to pray a “prayer of three” for these three people. Think of ways to show God’s love to them in a tactful, yet tangible way.
  
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray for your Ohana friends.
  - Pray the “prayer of three.”
  - Consider inviting one of these three persons to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.
  - Contact your prayer partner.

## AT THE RIVER

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests or first-time visitors.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by briefly completing the sentence, “The first time I realized there was a God who cares for me was . . . “

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together two or three of your group’s favorite praise songs about Jesus. Suggestions: “Praise the Name of Jesus,” “King of Kings” “Majesty” “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High,” “He Is Lord,” “Jesus, Name Above All Names” (All of these are in the Maranatha! Music Praise Book #3; pp. 200,137,212,199,126,47)
- ❖ Invite one or two who feel comfortable praying in a group, to have prayer.

### WORD

**Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.

- ❖ Read Mark 1:1-8 and Matthew 3:13-17 from a modern translation of the Bible and answer the following questions as *quickly* as possible. (We will discuss the story and what it means a little later. These first questions are to help us make sure we understand what the Bible is saying in these passages. Space is provided to jot down notes.)

The **Book** *says* in Mark 1:1-8:

- Mark begins his book by saying that Jesus Christ is the S\_\_\_\_\_ of G\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 1)
- Who was the person who “prepared the way” for Jesus? (vs. 4)
- How many people listened him? (vs. 5)
- What was his message? (vs. 4,7,8)
- How did people respond? (vs. 5)

The **Book** *says* in Matthew 3:13-17:

- Who came to be baptized by John? (vs. 13)
- Did John want to baptize Jesus? (vs. 14)

- As soon as Jesus was baptized, the S \_\_\_\_\_ of God descended on him in the form of a d \_\_\_\_\_.  
A voice from heaven said “This is my S \_\_\_\_\_.”

Holy Spirit

**Form into smaller groups of three or four to do the next section:**

***Look*** at what the ***Book*** (Bible passage) ***means***:

- The word *gospel* means *good news*. Why is the story of Jesus called *good news*? (Mark 1:1)

Gospel—also go to  
*Salvation*

- What does the phrase *son of God* mean? (Mark 1:1)

Son of God—Go to  
*Himself*

- John preached about “baptism of repentance for the “forgiveness of sins.” (Mark 1:4,7) Any idea what that means?

- What would you say was the most important part of John’s message? (Mark 1:7,8)

- Why was John reluctant to baptize Jesus? (Matthew 3:14)

Baptism

- Since Jesus was the perfect, sinless Son of God, why would He need to be baptized

- **What does John’s encounter with Jesus at the river tell us about Jesus?**

**Return to the larger group.**

***Took***— What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?

- Imagine you are a bystander at the Jordan river the day Jesus came to be baptized. What would be your thoughts and feelings about the event? Check one or more of the following:
  - \_\_\_ Who is this Jesus person?
  - \_\_\_ What’s going on here?
  - \_\_\_ Could this Jesus person be God?
  - \_\_\_ Praise God! The Divine Son of God is here!
  - \_\_\_ Something big happened here today, but I’m not sure what.
  - \_\_\_ I need to know more about this Jesus.
  - \_\_\_ I want to be baptized.
  - \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- If you feel comfortable doing so, share your responses with the group.

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
- ❖ Encourage each other to pray the “Prayer of Three” and to look for opportunities to invite “the three” to the Ohana group.
  
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray for your Ohana friends.
  - Pray the “Prayer of Three.”
  
- ❖ Conclude your time together by getting into groups of two or three to pray for each other.

## ON TEMPTATION'S GROUND

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests or first-time visitors.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by completing the sentence, "For me, the most tempting food is . . ."

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together two or three of your group's favorite praise songs about Jesus. Suggestions: "Praise the Name of Jesus," "King of Kings" "Majesty" "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High," "He Is Lord," "Jesus, Name Above All Names" (All of these are in the Maranatha! Music Praise Book #3; pp. 200, 137, 212, 199, 126, 47)
- ❖ Invite one or two who feel comfortable praying in a group, to have prayer.

### WORD

**Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.

Read Matthew 4:1-11 from a modern translation of the Bible and answer the following questions as *quickly* as possible. (We will discuss the story and what it means a little later. These first questions are to help us make sure we understand what the Bible is saying in this passage. Space is provided to jot down notes.)

- When and where did the encounter between the devil and Jesus take place? (Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-3)
- The first temptation was: (Matthew 4:3)
- The second temptation was: (vs. 6)
- The third temptation was: (vs. 8,9)
- Jesus met each temptation with the words "It is w \_\_\_\_\_"  
(vs. 4,7,10) There is great power in God's Word:  
"I have hidden your word in my heart that ***L**might not  
*sin* against you." (Psalm 119:11 NIV)*

Satan

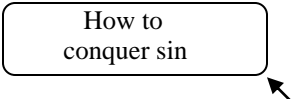
Bible

**Form into smaller groups of three or four** to do the next section:

**Look** at what the **Book** (Bible passage) *means*:

- What do you see as the real issues behind each of the temptations of Jesus?
- Temptation 1: (vs. 3)
  
- Temptation 2: (vs. 5,6)
  
- Temptation 3: (vs. 8,9)
  
- What comparisons are there between the temptation of Jesus and the temptation of Adam and Eve? (Genesis 3:1-6)
  
- **What does the encounter between Jesus and the devil tell us about Jesus?**

How to  
conquer sin



**Took**– What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?

(Please do this section individually and privately. You do not need to share your answers with the group unless you feel comfortable doing so)

- Check any and all of the following temptations that you struggle with:

(1) I am tempted by my appetite for

\_\_\_ food

\_\_\_ sex

\_\_\_ drugs

\_\_\_ alcohol

\_\_\_ cigarettes

\_\_\_ work

\_\_\_ power

\_\_\_ attention

\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) I am tempted to be presumptuous about God.

\_\_\_\_ I've been acting like I think He owes it to me to take care of me no matter what I do or how I live.

\_\_\_\_ I need to learn to trust Him by obeying Him and following His physical and spiritual laws for me.

(3) I am tempted to worship other things beside the one, true God:

\_\_\_\_ myself

\_\_\_\_ money

\_\_\_\_ fame

\_\_\_\_ other people

\_\_\_\_ celebrities

\_\_\_\_ possessions

\_\_\_\_ my career

\_\_\_\_ my spouse

\_\_\_\_ my family

\_\_\_\_ my hobbies

\_\_\_\_ my knowledge, opinions and ideas

\_\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ If you feel comfortable doing so, you may share with each other the responses you checked above. Otherwise, move on to the next section on prayer.
- ❖ **A prayer** to pray when you find yourself on temptation's ground – "It is written" in 1 Corinthians 10:13: (Write your name in the blanks)  
"No temptation has seized you, \_\_\_\_\_, except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you, \_\_\_\_\_, be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you, \_\_\_\_\_, can stand up under it."
- ❖ **Have one of the group** read the above verse aloud as a prayer, pausing briefly at the blanks. Silently, put your name in the pauses during the prayer.

### **Return to the larger group.**

### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Share with each other how it is going for each of you in praying "The Prayer of Three." Has anyone felt impressed to invite one of these persons to the Ohana meeting?
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Continue to pray "The Prayer of Three."
- ❖ Conclude your time together by placing an empty chair in the middle of the group and praying that God will fill it.



**WELCOME**

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests or first-time visitors.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by briefly describing the first party you remember attending as a child.

**WORSHIP**

- ❖ Sing together two or three of your group's favorite praise songs about Jesus.  
Suggestions: "Praise the Name of Jesus," "King of Kings" "Majesty" "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High," "He Is Lord," "Jesus, Name Above All Names" (All of these are in the Maranatha! Music Praise Book #3; pp. 200, 137, 212, 199, 126, 47)
- ❖ Invite one or two who feel comfortable praying in a group, to have prayer.
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four.**

**WORD**

❖ **Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.  
Read John 2:1-11 from a modern translation of the Bible and answer the following questions as *quickly* as possible

- The guest list for the wedding in Cana included: (John 2:1,2)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
- During the celebration, they ran out of w\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 3)
- Jesus' mother turned to \_\_\_\_\_ for help. (vs. 3)
- How many gallons of water did the servants put into the jars? (vs. 6)
- How did the master of the banquet compliment the bridegroom? (vs. 9,10)
- How did this first miracle of Jesus affect the disciples? (vs. 11)

**Look** at what the **Book** (Bible passage) *means*:

- Visualize this wedding. What sights, sounds, smells might you experience?

- Which character do you most identify with and why?
  - \_\_\_ The master of the banquet
  - \_\_\_ Jesus' mother
  - \_\_\_ The servants
  - \_\_\_ The disciples
  - \_\_\_ The bridegroom
- What effect did Jesus have upon each of these persons or groups of persons?
- **What do the encounters with Jesus at the wedding tell us about Him?**

***Took***– What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life? Please check one of the following which most describes your present spiritual situation.

- \_\_\_ Like the master of the banquet, I am happy about my circumstances but unaware that Jesus has been doing anything.
  - \_\_\_ Like the mother of Jesus, I turn to Him when I need help.
  - \_\_\_ Like the servants, I am willing to do whatever Jesus asks me to do.
  - \_\_\_ Like the disciples, I've seen a miracle and now I trust Jesus.
  - \_\_\_ Like most of the guests, I haven't been aware that there is a problem that needs fixing.
- ❖ Share your responses with the group if you feel comfortable doing so.
  - ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Discuss together what you think the disciples might have told their neighbors and friends back home about this event.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
- ❖ Share with each other how it is working to have prayer partners. Encourage those who haven't contacted a prayer partner, to do so.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray "The Prayer of Three."
  - Pray for your Ohana friends and their prayer requests.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by going around the circle and each person praying a brief prayer for the person on his/her right.

## AT THE FISHING BOATS

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and share what's been happening in your lives since the last meeting.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by sharing briefly some time when a "chance" encounter totally changed your life.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together two or three of your group's favorite praise songs about Jesus.)  
Suggestions: "Praise the Name of Jesus," "King of Kings" "Majesty" "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High," "He Is Lord," "Jesus, Name Above All Names" (All of these are in the Maranatha! Music Praise Book #3; pp. 200, 137, 212, 199, 126, 47)  
**Introduce a new song to the group.** (Suggestion: "Emmanuel" p. 36)
- ❖ Invite one or two who feel comfortable praying in a group, to have prayer.
  
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four** to do the next sections:

### WORD

**Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.

- ❖ Read Luke 5:1-11 from a modern translation of the Bible and answer the following questions as *quickly* as possible:
  - What were these fishermen doing when Jesus ran into them? (Luke 5:2)
  
  - What favor did Jesus ask of them? (vs. 3)
  
  - After He finished talking to the crowd, what strange command did Jesus give and what did Peter say about it? But what did he and his friends do? (vs. 4,5)
  
  - What happened when they obeyed Jesus' command? (vs. 6,7)
  
  - When Peter saw this, what did he do? (vs. 8)

- What did Jesus call them to do and with what results? (vs. 10, last part and vs. 11)

**Look** at what the **Book** (Bible passage) *means*:

- Do you think this meeting just happened by chance?
- Why did Peter disagree with Jesus’ request to let down their nets? (vs. 4,5)
- Why did Jesus say to them “do not be afraid”? (vs. 10, last part)
- What did the disciples understand about Jesus’ statement: “follow Me and I will make you fishers of men”?
- **What does the encounter the disciples had with Jesus at the fishing boats tell us about Jesus?**

**Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?

- Take a few moments to reflect on where you are in your present spiritual journey. Check the box that most closely resembles you at this moment.
  - Washing nets – Busy with my job, not thinking much about spiritual things at this time.
  - Listening – Taking time to listen to God through Bible study; listening to religious TV and radio, audio and video tapes; attending church
  - Obeying – Doing whatever God reveals to me even if it goes against my human logic.
  - Following – Willing to leave “everything” to follow Jesus.
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- After you have assessed where you are spiritually at this time, think about where you would like to be. What do you feel is the next step you need to make on your spiritual journey?
  - Learn more about Jesus
  - Listen to the words of Jesus as found in the Bible (continued . . .)

- Be willing to do what Jesus asks me to do
- Answer His call to follow Him
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and invite one person from each of the smaller groups to briefly share how their group answered the question, *What does the encounter the disciples had with Jesus at the fishing boats tell us about Jesus?*

## WITNESS

- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
- ❖ Share with each other what is happening as people pray “The Prayer of Three.” Encourage those who may not have selected three people to pray for yet.
- ❖ Suggest that when prayer partners contact each other that they pray for each other’s three names.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three.”
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray for Ohana members.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by having prayer partners get together and pray for each other’s “Three” as well as any other needs or praises that may be expressed to each other.

## AT NIGHT

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and debrief on how each person's week has been.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and hook into the session topic by briefly answering the question: What important or famous person would you most like to meet?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together two or three of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Invite one or two who feel comfortable praying in a group, to have prayer.
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four.**

### WORD

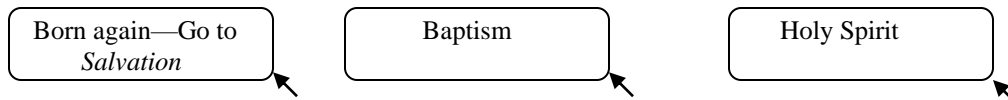
**Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.

- ❖ Read John 3:1-18 in a modern version of the Bible and answer as quickly as you can the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are *saying*.
  - What position did Nicodemus hold? (vs. 1)
  - What time of day did he meet Jesus? (vs. 2)
  - How did Nicodemus begin the conversation? (vs. 2)
  - Jesus answered by saying that people cannot see the kingdom of God unless they are b\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_.
  - Nicodemus replied by asking “how can a man be b\_\_\_\_\_ when he is old? (vs. 4)
  - Jesus said people must be born of w\_\_\_\_\_ and S\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5)
  - Jesus compared the Spirit to the w\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 8)

**Note:** In verse 14, Jesus referred to a snake being lifted up by Moses in the desert. This Old Testament incident (Numbers 21:4-9) concerned a plague of poisonous snakes that attacked Israel in the desert as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land. Many people died. God instructed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the snake that had been lifted up and they would be healed. Jesus is saying in this verse that when He is “lifted up” on the cross, anyone who looks to him by believing in Him, can be healed of sin's deadly bite.

**Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:

- Why did Nicodemus meet Jesus at night? (vs.2)
- What do you think of Jesus' opening remarks to Nicodemus? (vs.3)
- What does it mean to be "born again" of "water and the Spirit"? (vs.3,5-7,16-18)



- What do verses 16 and 17 tell us about God?
- **What do verses 16 and 17 tell us about Jesus?** (Designate one person in your group to report your group's answer to this question)
- John 3 does not tell us how Nicodemus responded to Jesus the night they met. Read John 7:50 and John 19:39 and discuss when and how you think Nicodemus chose to believe in Jesus and "be born again."
- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and have one person from each group report their group's answer to the question, *What do verses 16 and 17 tell us about Jesus?*
- ❖ **Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?
- ❖ Spend a few moments in quiet reflection and ask yourself:
  - "Have I accepted God's offer of eternal life by believing in Jesus?"  
 Yes     No
  - Is there anything keeping me from believing in Jesus?
  - Wouldn't it be smart to accept this wonderful offer as soon as possible?

- ❖ The leader of the Ohana group will pray a prayer of belief in Jesus. If it is your desire to believe in Jesus and be born again, repeat the prayer silently in your own mind and heart. If you accepted Jesus some time ago, but would like to re-affirm your belief in Him, you can repeat the prayer silently, as well.

(For the Ohana leader to pray:)

*Our Father in heaven, we thank You for sending Jesus into our world  
so that all of us can be rescued from sin and its penalty.  
Right now, there are some people here who want to be born again.  
This is their prayer:*

*“Dear God, I believe in Jesus. I am sorry for my sins and I want to be forgiven.  
I ask Jesus to come into my heart. I want to be born again  
and start a brand, new life in Him. Thank you for saving me! Amen.”*

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ If, during this session, you prayed and confessed your belief in Jesus for the very first time, *tell someone* what you just now did. The leader of the Ohana group or another Ohana member would be thrilled to hear about your decision for Jesus. *Tell a family member or friend* as soon as possible, too. This is a great opportunity for you to begin to witness for Jesus.
- ❖ **This next week**
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three.” If God impresses you, invite one of “The Three” to the next Ohana meeting.
  - Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests as recorded on the blessing list.



## AT THE WELL

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and share what's been going on in your lives.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by briefly answering the question: When you were growing up, who were the people you were told not to associate with? What part of the city or country would you be warned about? What would have happened if you had gone there?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together songs of praise of your choosing or “We Have Come Into This House,” “Bind Us Together” and “Surely the Presence of the Lord.” (pp. 204, 43 and 285 of Maranatha Praise book three)
- ❖ Invite someone to read John 4:23,24.
- ❖ Invite someone who feels comfortable praying in a group, to pray for God's spirit and truth to fill each person in the room.

### WORD

**Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.

- ❖ Read John 4:1-42 in a modern version of the Bible and answer as quickly as you can the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are *saying*.
  - What time of day did this incident take place? (John 4:6)
  - Was this the usual hour for people to come and draw water from the well?
  - Why was Jesus alone? (4:8)
  - What prejudices are displayed in this story? (4:9, 12,20 & 27)
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four** to do the next section.

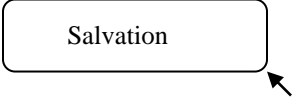
**Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:

- What kind of woman do you think this was? (vs. 7,17,18)
- Why did Jesus ask her for a drink of water?
- What do you think of Jesus' responses in verses 10 and 13?
- Why did Jesus suddenly bring up the woman's private life? And how do you think she felt about His comment? (vs. 16-19)

- Why did the woman bring up the controversial issue of where to worship? (vs. 19,20)

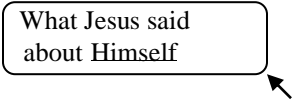
- What do you think of Jesus' response to her statement? (vs. 21-24)

Salvation



- Why did Jesus plainly reveal to this woman who He was? (vs. 25,26)  
What was her reaction? (vs. 28-30; 39)

What Jesus said  
about Himself



- **What does the encounter of Jesus and the woman at the well tell us about Jesus?**

**Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?

- With whom do you most identify in this story and why?  
The woman?

The disciples?

The townspeople?

- What recent encounters have you had with Jesus that resulted in changed attitudes, behaviors, etc?

❖ **Return to the larger group.**

## WITNESS

❖ How and with whom might you share your recent encounter with Jesus?

❖ **This next week**

- Pray for an opportunity to share with someone what Jesus is doing in your life.
- Pray “The Prayer of Three” and invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.
- Contact your prayer partner.
- Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests on the Blessing List.

## THROUGH THE ROOF

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests or visitors.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by sharing with each other:  
If in a crisis, even at 3 a.m., which four friends would you call?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by inviting one or two long-time Ohana members to pray.

### WORD

**Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.

Read Mark 2:1-12 in a modern version of the Bible and answer as quickly as you can the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are *saying*.

- Where and under what circumstances did this event take place? (vs. 1,2)
- In this story, who had faith?
- What was the reaction of the “religious experts” in the crowd? (vs. 6,7)

#### ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four**

**Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:

- How do you think the four friends came up with their scheme of tearing up the roof and lowering their friend through it?
- If you had been the paralytic in this story how would you feel about your friends lowering you through the roof?
  - a. Grateful for the concern of friends
  - b. Scared of being dropped
  - c. Worried that you might be thrown out of the house by security guards
  - d. Skeptical of such a crazy idea
  - e. Afraid of being embarrassed
  - f. Doubtful that the plan would work, but willing to give it a try
  - g. Other:
- What do you think the “religious experts” thought and felt when Jesus answered them the way He did and then forgave and healed the man?

Forgiveness

- From your viewpoint, rate the actions in the story in the order of their importance, number 1 being most important, 4 being least.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ The friends tearing a hole in the roof and letting their friend through
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus forgiving the man's sins
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus healing the man
  - \_\_\_\_\_ The opposition of the religious leaders
- **What does the encounter with Jesus and the sick man tell us about Jesus?**

**Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?

- Take a few moments to do a “wellness analysis” of the major areas of your life. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being perfect fitness and 1 being “down on a stretcher,” rate yourself in the following areas:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Physical health
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Emotional health (happy, sad, depressed, peaceful, angry, etc.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Social health (how I am getting along with the people in my life)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Job/School (fulfilled, struggling, etc.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Spiritual health (close to God or far away or in-between)

It's not a disgrace to be on the injury list. We've all been there or will be there sometime in our lives. Sometimes we are on the stretcher; other times, we can be a stretcher-bearer for someone else. We are here to help each other.

- ❖ **In your small group**—If you feel comfortable doing so, share with each other what your area of greatest need is. Then go around the circle, each of you finishing the sentence, “the way in which you could help me most is . . . .” (If you do not feel comfortable with this exercise, end your small group time in silent or audible prayer for each other.
- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

## WITNESS

- ❖ Talk about what it takes to be a “stretcher-bearer,” someone who helps to get others to Jesus for healing and forgiveness.
- ❖ **Review the Blessing List** by talking about how two, three or four of you might get together to help “carry” someone on the list toward Jesus.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Be a “stretcher-bearer” by praying for Ohana members and their prayer requests for other people.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three.”

IN THE MIDST OF INSANITY

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests or visitors.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by sharing with each other: What would you do if you were walking through your neighborhood and all of a sudden an obviously crazy and violent-looking person ran toward you?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by inviting one or two long-time Ohana members to pray.

WORD

*Book* – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.

Read Mark 5:1-21 in a modern version of the Bible and *quickly* answer the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are *saying*.

- Where did this incident take place? (Mark 5:1) If someone in the group has a Bible with maps in the back, see if you can locate the region of the *Gerasenes* or *Gadara* as it is called in some translations.
- Describe the demon-possessed man. (vs. 2-5)
- What was Jesus' first action toward him? (vs. 8)
- The process of the demoniac's deliverance:
  - a. vs. 8: Jesus commanded the evil spirit to \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. vs. 9: Jesus asked the \_\_\_\_\_ "What is your \_\_\_\_\_?"
  - c. vs. 9: The evil spirit said his name was \_\_\_\_\_, because there were so many.
  - d. vs.12: The demons begged Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. vs. 13: Jesus gave them p\_\_\_\_\_ and the evil spirits came out and went into the p\_\_\_\_\_
  - f. vs. 15: The demoniac \_\_\_\_\_
- What was the reaction of the people in the area to this event? (vs. 14-17)

- What were Jesus' last words to the restored demoniac? (vs. 19)

❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to discuss the next section:

❖ **Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:

This passage could be divided into three parts: Confrontation, Control, Cure

- **Confrontation:** Imagine the scene when the boat landed and a madman rushed toward Jesus and the disciples. How did the disciples feel and what did they do?
- What did Jesus feel and do? (vs. 2-8)
- How did the man know Jesus was the Son of God? (vs. 7)
- **Control:** What things do you see in this story that indicate Jesus was in complete control of the entire situation? (vs. 8-15)

- **Cure:** What effect did the demoniac's cure have on the people of the region? (vs. 15-17) What were they afraid of?

- What do you suppose the healed demoniac said to his family? (vs. 19,20)

- **What does the encounter of Jesus with the demoniac tell us about Jesus?**

❖ **Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life today? (Please answer these questions individually and privately.)

- Do you ever feel like you are being controlled by destructive thoughts, attitudes, behaviors or addictions from which you are powerless to escape? (Check one of the following:  
 all the time  
 more often than I like to admit  
 sometimes  
 occasionally  
 never
- Do you believe Jesus can give you freedom from these things?  
 yes     no     I'm not sure
- What step(s) do you need to take to be cured and freed by Jesus?

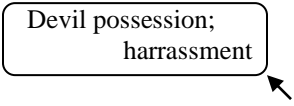
- If you feel comfortable doing so, you can share your thoughts with your small group.

❖ **Continuing in your small group of three or four:**

**WITNESS**

- ❖ Share with each other what the Lord has done for you recently in freeing you from harmful habits, attitudes, thoughts, etc.
- ❖ **Return to the large group** and review the Blessing List.
- ❖ **Gather prayer requests from the group.** As different prayer requests are mentioned, invite someone else to immediately pray for that request. When all requests have been prayed for, the Ohana leader will conclude with prayer.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Think of a family member, friend or neighbor with whom you would like to share your testimony of what God has done for you. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to do so very soon.
  - Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three.”

Devil possession;  
harrassment



## ALONG THE WAY

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests or visitors.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by sharing with each other an incident in your life when you were fearful to try something new; but when you did, it turned out to be great.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by inviting one or two long-time Ohana members to pray.
  
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to do the next parts.

### WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.  
Read Mark 5:21-34 in a modern version of the Bible and quickly answer the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are *saying*.
  - When, where and under what circumstances did this encounter with Jesus occur?
  
  - How long had the woman been sick? How severe was her illness and what remedies had she tried?
  
  - How did her healing take place?
  
- ❖ **Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:
  - Why do you think this sick woman approached Jesus the way she did? Check as many as you think apply:
    - She was shy       scared       in a hurry       embarrassed
    - lacked confidence       didn't know what to say       didn't want to bother Jesus
    - other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Share with the group why you picked the answers you did.
  
  - What do you find in this passage that indicates the level of the woman's faith? (vs. 27,28, 34)



- Why did Jesus make such a big deal about finding out who touched Him? (vs. 30-34)
- How do you think the woman felt when Jesus said what He did in verse 34?

Faith

- **What does the encounter of Jesus with the sick woman tell us about Jesus?**

❖ **Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life? Please answer this section personally and privately. Be sure to give everyone in the small group some quiet time to do this.

- Is there anything in your life from which you long to be freed? A physical, mental, emotional or spiritual illness? Destructive thoughts and attitudes? A sin you can't shake loose? Jot it down here:
- What remedies have you tried in the past to get rid of your problems? Jot them down:
- How successful have your remedies been?
- When you take yourself to Jesus for healing of your problem, He says to you, "Daughter/Son, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your

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(Write your problem in the lines above)

- ❖ **Return to the larger group** for the rest of the session.
- ❖ **For the Ohana leader or assistant to say:** "If you are like the woman in this story and want to reach out to Jesus for freedom from whatever has been afflicting you, I invite you to silently, in your heart and mind, repeat this prayer as I pray it for all of us:"

(Go to next page, please)

**Dear Jesus, I'm reaching out to You right now to be healed  
of the problem that only You know I have.  
I've tried everything I can think of to get rid of this problem.  
Now, I put my case in Your hands.  
Give me faith to accept Your answer to my problem in Your time.  
Thank You, Jesus! Amen."**

- ❖ *Sing together softly* "In His Time." (p. 41 Maranatha! Music Praise Chorus Book, expanded third edition)

### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Discuss together: What do you think were the first words the woman in this story said when she got home?
- ❖ What about us? Do we have a story to share of what Jesus has done for us? With whom could we share it this week? How about asking God to give us an opportunity to share with someone?
- ❖ Review the Blessing List. Are there people on the list with whom we could share a personal testimony?

### ❖ **This next week:**

- Pray that God will give you an opportunity to share with someone what Jesus has done or is doing for you.
- Contact your prayer partner.
- Pray "The Prayer of Three."
- Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
- Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## AT A PICNIC

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by answering, “Have you ever experienced a miracle? If so, please briefly share your experience with the group.”

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group’s favorite praise songs, ending with the chorus “Thank You, Lord.”
- ❖ Invite one or two who feel comfortable praying, to pray for the group.

### WORD

- ❖ *Book* - Read John 6:1-13

- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four to do the next sections.**

#### *Look*

- Where did this event take place? Any idea what time of year it was?
  
- What does the interchange between Jesus and Philip tell us about Philip? About Jesus? (verses 5-7)
  
- How do you suppose Andrew knew about the boy with the sack lunch?
  
- How did Jesus have the disciples organize the crowd? (See also Mark 6:39,40)
  
- What do you think Jesus might have said when He “gave thanks”?
  
- What reason might Jesus have had for distributing the food the way He did? Mark 6:41
  
- Describe how you think the following people felt as they experienced this miracle:

- a. Philip: (vs. 5,6)
- b. Andrew: (vs. 8,9)
- c. The boy who gave his lunch:
- d. The disciples:
- e. The crowd:

❖ **What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?**

- ❖ **Took** -- Take a brief inventory of your life. Are there areas where you need a miracle? Write down the miracle you need.

Physically:

Mentally:

Emotionally:

Spiritually:

Other:

- ❖ If you feel comfortable doing so, share with the group one item that you wrote down and ask the group to pray for you this week about your need.
- ❖ Think of someone you know who needs a miracle. Share this name with your small group and conclude your time together by praying for each other and the persons you have named.
- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and have one person from each small group share one thing that his/her group felt was most important about this story.

**WITNESS**

- ❖ Imagine what kind of stories were told the next day by the people who experienced this miracle. Discuss together how you can share with other people the things that God has done for you. Encourage each other to look for little ways God blesses you this week and then look for opportunities to share it with family, friends, co-workers, etc.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
- ❖ Set an empty chair in the middle of the group and form a circle around it and invite one or two to pray that God will fill it this week.

❖ **This next week:**

- Look for small miracles that God does for you this week and then ask Him to guide you to someone with whom you can share what God has done for you.
- Contact your prayer partner.
- Pray “The Prayer of Three.”
- Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
- Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## IN COURT

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests or visitors.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by sharing with each other: What famous court trial or investigation can you name?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by inviting one or two long-time Ohana members to pray.
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four.**

### WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.  
Read John 8:1-11 in a modern version of the Bible and quickly answer the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are *saying*.

- Where did this incident take place? (John 8:2)
- What was the law the scribes and Pharisees referred to in John 8:5? (Deuteronomy 22:22-24) Did they apply it correctly in this case?
- What was the reason the religious leaders brought this case to Jesus? (vs. 6)
- Was the woman guilty or innocent of the charges brought against her?
- How did Jesus decide the case and what was His verdict?

Law

Judgment

- ❖ **Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:
  - Why do you think Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground? And what do you think He might have written?

- What was Jesus really saying by the words, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first”?
- How did the religious leaders feel when they heard those words and watched Jesus continue to write on the ground? (vs. 9)
- Describe how you think the woman felt when Jesus said “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” (vs. 11) Compare with John 3:17.
- **What does the encounter of Jesus with the convicted woman tell us about Jesus?**

❖ **Take** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?  
Please answer this section personally and privately.

If you were brought before Jesus as this woman was, what accusations could be made against you? What would you be guilty of? (Check whatever may apply)

- Ignoring God       Not accepting Jesus       Making a god of myself  
 Unbelief       Mistreating my family       Hatred       Stealing  
 Cheating       Adultery       Addictions to alcohol, drugs, sex       Gossip  
 Dishonesty       Selfishness       Ingratitude       Jealousy  
 Hypocrisy       An unforgiving spirit       Pride  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ **Return to the larger group.**

❖ **For the Ohana leader or assistant to say:** “All of us are guilty of breaking God’s perfect law in some way or another. Yet this story of Jesus and the accused woman tells us that Jesus does not condemn us. Rather, He forgives us! If you want to be forgiven and accept Christ’s pardon for all your sins, bow your heads with me and let’s each one silently pray and ask Jesus to forgive us and cleanse us from all our unrighteousness.”

❖ As a group, stay in silent prayer for a few minutes.

- ❖ **For the Ohana leader or assistant to say:** “Please join me right now and take your pens or pencils and write the word ***FORGIVEN*** in big letters across the section where you just now checked the things you are guilty of. Let’s rejoice that Jesus does not condemn us but He forgives us!

Men hate the sinner, while they love the sin.

Christ hates the sin, but loves the sinner.

--Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 462

## WITNESS

- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
- ❖ Get an update on new Ohana groups your group may be sponsoring or ones that will be starting soon.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by forming a circle and placing an empty chair in the middle of it. Invite someone to pray that God will fill the empty chair and invite someone else to pray that Ohana members will start new Ohana groups.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray that God will give you an opportunity to share with someone what it means to you to be forgiven by Jesus.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three.”



## IN BLINDNESS

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and find out how things are going with each person.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and hook into the session topic by asking the people in your group who wear eye glasses or contact lenses to describe what it was like to get prescription lens for the first time.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by inviting one or two long-time Ohana members to pray.

**Form into small groups of three or four** for the next sections.

### WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.  
Read John 9:1-41 in a modern version of the Bible and quickly answer the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are *saying*.
  - How did Jesus and His disciples differ in the explanation of this man's plight? (vs. 1-5)
  - How did the man's acquaintances react to his healing? (vs. 7-10)
  - What effect did this healing have on the Pharisees? (vs. 13-17)
  - Why were the man's parents called and how did they feel about the healing? (vs. 18,19,22,23)
  - What principle of witnessing do you find in this story? (vs. 24,25)
- ❖ **Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:
  - This story illustrates two kinds of blindness: physical and spiritual.
  - In paragraphs "a" through "e" below, circle which kind of blindness you think each of the characters had (physical or spiritual) and to what degree they were blind. (partial, total, just a blind spot)

Sabbath

- Not down and discuss why your group circled the words you circled.
  - f. The disciples were (physically, spiritually) blind. Their blindness was (partial, total, just a blind spot). (vs. 2)  
The reason(s) our group circled these words is because . . .
  - g. The blind man was (physically, spiritually) blind. His blindness was (partial, total, just a blind spot). (vs. 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-12, 15, 17, 24-27, 30-33, 35-38)  
The reason(s) our group circled these words is because . . .
  - h. The blind man's neighbors and friends were (physically, spiritually) blind. Their blindness was (partial, total, just a blind spot) (vs. 8-12)  
The reason(s) our group circled these words is because . . .
  - i. The Pharisees were (physically, spiritually) blind. Their blindness was (partial, total, just a blind spot) (vs. 14-18; 24-34; 40,41)  
The reason(s) our group circled these words is because . . .
  - j. The blind man's parents were (physically, spiritually) blind. Their blindness was (partial, total, just a blind spot) (Vs. 20-23)  
The reason(s) our group circled these words is because . . .

What Jesus said about Himself



- Why did Jesus put mud on the blind man's eyes? (vs. 6,7)
- Why did Jesus search for the man after he got kicked out by the Pharisees? (vs. 35-38)
- **What does the encounter of Jesus with the blind man tell us about Jesus?**

❖ **Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?

Jesus tells us we are all spiritually blind:

*“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’*

*But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, **blind** and naked.”*

---Revelation 3:17

What is the solution for our spiritual blindness?

*“I counsel you to buy from me . . . salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.*

*Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.*

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in and eat with him, and he with me.”*

---Revelation 3:18-20

- ❖ If it is your desire to have Jesus heal you of your spiritual blindness, please check the following items:

\_\_\_\_\_ I want Jesus to reveal my spiritual blindness to me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want Him to put His salve on my eyes, even if it feels like mud!

\_\_\_\_\_ I am earnest about repenting of my spiritual blindness.

\_\_\_\_\_ I invite Jesus into my life.

- ❖ If you have questions or it is not clear to you what it means to invite Jesus into your life, please speak with your Ohana leader, assistant leader or sponsor.

Salvation

- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and let one person from each group briefly share how their group answered the question, *What does the encounter of Jesus with the blind man tell us about Jesus?*

## WITNESS

- ❖ Discuss together how quickly the former blind man was called on to witness for Jesus. How much did he know about Jesus? What was the “bottom line” of his testimony? Do you think it was effective?
- ❖ Review the Blessing List. Who are the people on that list who need to hear a testimony of what Jesus can do? And who can give them a testimony?
- ❖ Close with a prayer that the people on our Blessing List may soon have an opportunity to hear the testimony of a Christian about what Jesus can do in people’s lives. Be sure to put an empty chair in the middle of the group also and ask God to fill it. And also pray for new Ohana groups.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray that God will give you an opportunity to share with someone what Jesus has done or is doing for you.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three.”
  - Invite someone to come with you to next week’s Ohana meeting.

## IN CHURCH

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce new people.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by answering: Have you ever been trapped in some situation and then suddenly rescued or set free? How did you feel?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by singing a quiet praise song and then remaining in silent prayer for a minute or two. The leader of the group will say "Amen."
  
- ❖ **Form into groups of three or four.**

### WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.  
Read **Luke 13:10-17** in a modern version of the Bible and quickly answer the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are *saying*.
  - What was the setting for this miracle? (Vs. 10)
  
  - How serious was the woman's disease? (Vs. 11, last part)
  
  - Who did Jesus blame for her affliction? (vs.16)
  
  - Did the crippled woman have to do anything to be healed? (vs. 12,13)
  
  - Describe the reaction and emotional responses of the various persons:
    - a. The crippled woman: (Vs. 13, last part)
  
    - b. Christ's opponents: (Vs. 14 & 17)
  
    - c. The congregation: (Vs. 17)

Sabbath

- ❖ **Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:
  - How did Jesus act in accordance with His mission when He healed this woman? (Compare with Luke 4:16-18)
  - Why did the ruler of the synagogue become angry? (Vs. 14) What do you think might have been behind his anger? Zeal for God's law? Misunderstanding of Jesus' mission? Sin in his own life? Other?
  - **What does this encounter in church tell us about Jesus?**
- ❖ **Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?
  - If Jesus were to say to you, “(Your name) \_\_\_\_\_, you are set free from your \_\_\_\_\_.”  
 What would you put in the blank? Think about it for a few minutes, then write down what you feel you most need to be freed from.
  - In my present spiritual condition, which person do I most resemble?
    - The crippled woman – I have been physically, emotionally or spiritually bound by Satan for a long time.
    - The crippled woman healed – I am praising God for freeing me of physical, emotional or spiritual bondage.
    - The ruler of the synagogue – I am concerned that rules and procedures be followed.
    - A member of the congregation – I am rejoicing that God is doing great things for people.
- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and invite one person from each of the smaller groups to briefly state what impressed them most about this encounter with Jesus.

## WITNESS

- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
- ❖ Get updates on any new Ohana groups that have started and encourage each other to start groups.

- ❖ Discuss together: The crippled woman's first act after being healed was to praise God. Do you think praising God can be a way to witness to unbelievers? Why? How can a person do this without sounding overly pious or phony to unbelievers?
- ❖ Take a few minutes for anyone in the group who wishes to, to speak a short sentence or two of praise to God for something He has done.

❖ **This next week:**

- Ask God to remind you to praise Him more for what He has done and is doing in your life.
- Contact your prayer partner.
- Pray "The Prayer of Three." Also Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests and for new Ohana groups.
- Invite someone to come with you to next week's Ohana meeting.

FROM OUT ON A LIMB

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and share what's been happening in your lives.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by describing the shortest person you know. Does he/she have any difficulties with everyday functions such as reaching a top shelf, etc? Or, if you have a short person in the group who doesn't mind sharing, ask them to describe what it's like to be short. What are the advantages? Disadvantages?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by inviting one or two long-time Ohana members to pray.
  
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four people.**

WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it says.  
Read Luke 19:1-10 in a modern version of the Bible and quickly answer the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are saying.

- This event occurred while Jesus was passing through the city of \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 1)
  
- Name three facts about Zaccheaus: (vs. 2,3)
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Zaccheaus was so anxious to see Jesus that he \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 4)
  
- What complaint did people make when they saw Jesus going home with Zacchaeus? (vs. 7)
  
- What remarkable promise did Zaccheaus make to Jesus? (vs. 8)

Repentance

❖ **Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:

- Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus? (vs. 3)
- Do you think Zacchaeus heard what people were muttering about him? If he did, how do you think he felt about their comments?
  
- Compare the physical shortness of Zaccheaus with what the Bible says about all of us being spiritually too short. Read Romans 3:23 and jot down how we are “too short”:
  
- Read Romans 3:10 and jot down how none of us “measures up”:
  
- Read Romans 6:23 to find out how we are all “out on a limb” that is going to be cut off.
  
- When did Zacchaeus receive salvation?  When he climbed into the tree?  
 When he came down from the tree?  When he welcomed Jesus to his home?  Sometime during dinner?  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Salvation

- **What does the encounter of Jesus with Zacchaeus tell us about Jesus?**

❖ **Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?

(Please answer these questions personally and privately)

- If Jesus invited Himself to be a guest at your house, would you welcome Him gladly?  Yes  No  Maybe  
Jot down what might make you hesitate:
- Would you need to make things right like Zacchaeus did? (vs. 8) If so, what?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Are you willing, at this time, to welcome Jesus into your life, to repent and make restitution for wrongs you have done?  yes  no  not sure

If you need more information on what it means to invite Jesus into your life, talk to your Ohana leader or prayer partner.



- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and let each person very briefly tell what they feel the encounter of Jesus with Zaccheaus tells us about Jesus.

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Discuss together: Apparently, Zacchaeus had a social gathering at his home; and in that venue, he witnessed to others about his changed life. Could a social event with our Ohana group be a place to witness to our friends and neighbors? If so, how might we do that?
- ❖ Discuss the idea and begin laying plans for a social event.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
- ❖ Find out how other Ohana groups are doing.
  
- ❖ Conclude your time together by placing an empty chair in the middle of the group and asking God to fill it. Also ask God to help your group reach out to others and invite them to an Ohana social event and eventually, to the Ohana meetings.
  
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - If you have not yet brought a guest, invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## AT A DINNER PARTY

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and socialize together for a few minutes.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic sharing with each other:  
What is the fanciest party you ever attended?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by having prayer partners get together and pray for each other.
  
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four people** to do the next sections.

### WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read a passage from the Bible to see what it *says*.  
Read Luke 7:36-50 in a modern version of the Bible and quickly answer the following questions to make sure you know what these verses are *saying*.
  - What is the setting for this incident? (vs. 36)
  - Who are the main characters in the story?
  
  - What were Simon's thoughts when the "sinful" woman poured perfume on Jesus' feet? (vs. 39)
  
  - How did Jesus treat Simon?
  
  - How did He treat the "sinful" woman who brought the perfume?
  
- ❖ **Look** at what the Bible passage *means*:
  - Imagine what it would be like to have a dinner party interrupted by a weeping woman pouring perfume on the feet of the guest of honor. How do you think the other guests felt?

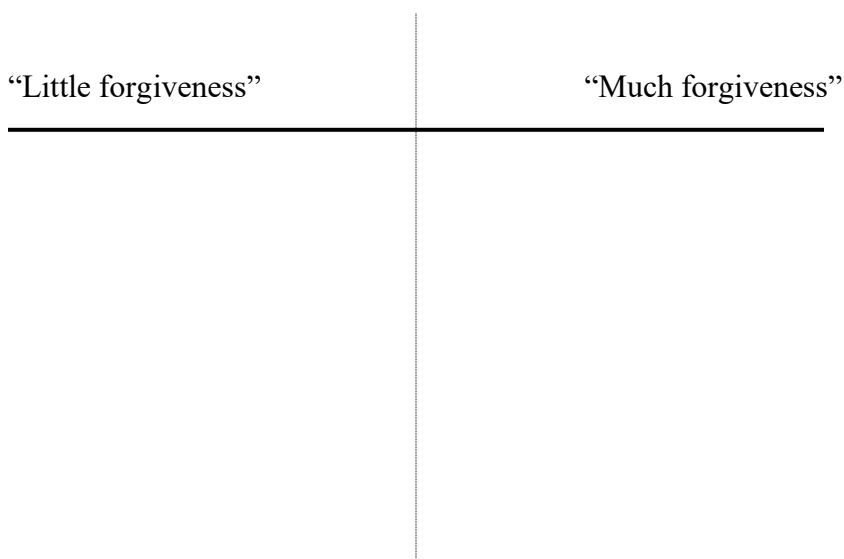
- Take a **look** at the “sinful woman:”
  - What prompted her to do what she did?
  - What emotions did she experience as she poured perfume on Jesus’ feet?
  - How did she feel while Jesus spoke to Simon about her?
  - How did she feel at the end of the encounter?
- If you had been Simon, how would you have felt about the way Jesus talked to you? (vs. 40-48)
- What would you pick as the most important statement in this passage of scripture?
- **What does the encounter of Jesus with Simon tell us about Jesus?**
- **What does the encounter of Jesus with the “sinful woman” tell us about Jesus?**



❖ **Took** – What can I *take* from this passage and apply to my life?

- This is the story of two people – not just one - who encountered Jesus. Which one do you most closely identify with and why?
  - I identify mostly with Simon, because . . .
  - I identify mostly with the woman, because . . .

- Place a dot on the horizontal line below that indicates whether you are a person who needs much or little forgiveness or if you're somewhere in between.



- Now draw a line in the middle of the line above and perpendicular to it, making a cross. Turn the paper sideways and write the words “Forgiven by Jesus” along this line. Salvation Math is: 3 nails + 1 cross = 4 given
- Personalize verse 50 by putting your name in it: “Jesus says to me, \_\_\_\_\_, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’”

## WITNESS

- ❖ Discuss together: This woman’s expression of love became a bold and powerful witness to others of what Jesus had done for her. How can we publicly express love to Jesus without “turning off” the people around us? Or should we simply go ahead and let everyone know how much we love Jesus and not worry about what they think of us?
- ❖ Find out how new Ohana groups are doing. Encourage each other to start new groups and also to be faithful in praying “The Prayer of Three.”
- ❖ Conclude by giving each person a small piece of paper to write down the names of the people in their “Prayer of Three.” Gather the papers and put them on an empty chair which you place in the middle of the group. Form a circle around the chair and invite one or two to pray for the people listed on the pieces of paper.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray “the Prayer of Three” and also pray for Ohana members and their “three’s”

## AT A PARADE

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any new people.
- ❖ Get better acquainted with each other and *hook* into the topic by finding out if anyone in the group has ever been in a parade or helped with a parade. Let them share their experiences.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Form into groups of two or three. Share any prayer requests or praises from your small group and then pray with each other.

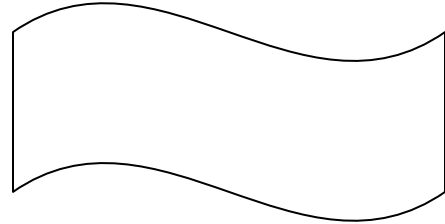
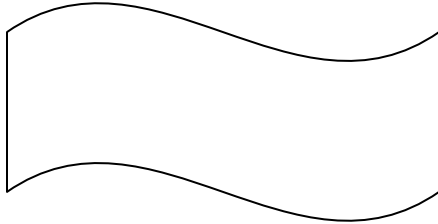
### WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read Mark 11:1-11 and Luke 19:36-44.
  
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to do the next sections:
  
- ❖ **Look** at what the Bible passage *means* by discussing the following questions:
  - Why did Jesus allow people to give Him a parade when He had always before avoided being made the center of attention?
  
  - What do you think of Jesus' method of obtaining a donkey?
  
  - Who were some of the people in the parade who cheered for Jesus? (John 12:12, 17,18)
  
  - Why were the Pharisees upset with the parade? (Luke 19:39,40)
  
  - Why did Jesus cry over Jerusalem? (Luke 12:41-44, Matthew 24:2, 15-20)
  
  - Describe how you think the following people felt and what they may have thought:
    - o The owners of the donkey
    - o The disciples
    - o The cheering crowd
    - o The jeering Pharisees

- o Jesus, overlooking the city of Jerusalem

❖ **What do these various interactions with people involved in the parade tell us about Jesus?**

- ❖ **Took** -- If Jesus were to come to our town in a parade, what would we do? Would we cheer for Him? If so, how? Think of what you might put on a couple of banners to praise Jesus. Write your ideas in the spaces below:



- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

**WITNESS**

- ❖ Think about and discuss: Am I happy to praise Jesus for what He has done for me? Or do I feel uncomfortable? Embarrassed? Uncertain because I don't know what to say?
- ❖ Find out if there are people in the group who would like to learn how to share a personal testimony. Then schedule a session to use the material on the next page to learn and practice a personal testimony. (This material needs to be applied in a group setting so that you can practice with each other.)
- ❖ Review the Blessing List, adding any new names and encouraging each other to pray for people during the week.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by setting an empty chair in the middle of the group and praying for God to fill it with someone.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray "The Prayer of Three" and also pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - If you have not yet brought a guest, invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

**EXTRA MATERIAL --**

## YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

### The “Be Attitudes” of giving a personal testimony:

- **Be brief** – 1 to 3 minutes
- Be confident and positive.
- Be enthusiastic, happy and friendly.
- Be specific.
- Be real, authentic, sincere.

Use the following format to write out your brief personal testimony: (Use extra paper if you need to, to edit and refine your testimony)

**Part 1 – BEFORE** (Briefly describe your life before becoming a Christian. Example: “I used to feel . . . ” or “I used to think . . . ” etc.)

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**Part II – HOW** (Briefly describe how people, places or events contributed to you becoming a Christian. Beware of using “Christian jargon,” words such as “saved,” “redeemed,” “born again,” etc., which are unknown to your non-Christian friend)

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**Part III – SINCE** (Briefly describe your life since becoming a Christian. Examples: “Since I ‘ve made this change in my life, I am now able to . . . ” or “Since I’ve become a Christian these positive changes took place in my life . . . ” These items could be the reverse of Part I.)

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## ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

### IN THE UPPER ROOM

(Facilitator: please note that the *Worship* part comes near the end of the session)

#### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and take a few minutes to find out what's happening in people's lives.

#### WITNESS

- ❖ Identify the people in the group who have had opportunities this last week to share with someone what God has done for them. Let them briefly share their experiences.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List, adding any new names and encouraging each other to pray for people during the week.
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to do the next sections.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and ***hook*** into the session topic by briefly describing a typical holiday meal for your family. Who comes? What foods do you have? What traditions?

#### WORD

- ❖ ***Book*** – Read Luke 22:7-20
- ❖ ***Look*** at what the passage ***means*** by discussing the following questions:
  - Find out the origin of the Passover service by reading Exodus 12:1-14.
  - How would you compare the selection of the room (Luke 22:10-12) with the selection of a donkey for Jesus to ride on for His parade? (Luke 21:29-34) Do you think the disciples were getting used to the supernatural ways in which Jesus worked or were they still surprised?
  - What did Jesus say was the meaning of the bread and the cup? (Luke 22:19,20)
  - Jesus replaced the Passover service (killing and eating a lamb) with The Lord's Supper (eating bread, drinking the juice of the grape vine). Why do you think He did this?
- ❖ ***Book*** – Read Luke 21:24-27 and John 13:1-17
- ❖ ***Look*** at what the passage ***means*** by discussing the following questions:



- How would you describe the spiritual condition of the disciples at this time? (Luke 21:24)
- Do you think the disciples “got” what Jesus said to them in Luke 22:25-27?
- How did Jesus demonstrate His teaching? (John 13:5)
- Why do you believe Peter reacted the way He did when Jesus approached him? (John 13:6-8)
- What reversed Peter’s attitude? (John 13:8,9)
- What did Jesus mean in verse 10?
- How clear did Jesus make this lesson? (verses 12-16)

❖ **Return to the larger group** and discuss the following question together:

❖ **What does the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples tell us about Jesus?**

❖ **Took** – Jesus said His action of washing the disciples’ feet was an example of \_\_\_\_\_ . (verse 15) How can we follow this example?

- The early Christian church celebrated the Lord’s Supper. Eventually, this service was named “Communion” and most Christian churches have “communion” on a regular basis. But not many churches include foot-washing as part of this memorial service of what Jesus did for us. The Seventh-day Adventist church always conducts foot-washing among believers prior to the communion service. Do you think this is a good idea? Does it have a biblical basis? What does it symbolize?

Salvation

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Invite someone to read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- ❖ Share with each other by completing the sentence: “When I think about the broken body of Jesus and His shed blood, I . . . .”
- ❖ Sing together some songs of praise to Jesus for what He has done for us.
- ❖ Pray together by inviting one or two to pray a prayer of thanks and praise to Jesus.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three” and also pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## IN THE GARDEN

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and take a few minutes to find out what's happening in people's lives.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by briefly answering the question: What is the hardest decision you ever had to make?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by getting into groups of three or four and praying for each other.
- ❖ **Stay together in small groups** to do the next sections.

### WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read Luke 22:39-46.
- ❖ **Look** at what the passage *means* by discussing together: Why was it important for the disciples to pray in the Garden?

Prayer

- ❖ **Took** – Briefly describe some time when you found it very difficult to do the will of the Father.
- ❖ **Book** – Read Luke 22:47-62.
- ❖ **Look** –
  - What do you think Judas thought and felt when Jesus spoke to him? (verse 48)
  - How did Peter react when Jesus looked at him? (verses 61,62)
  - How serious is it to deny Jesus? (Luke 12:9)
- ❖ **Took**
  - In what ways do people today deny Jesus? Jot down as many ways as the group comes up with:
    - Personally and privately, go back over the list the group made and ask yourself, "Have I denied Jesus in any of those ways?" Check any that apply to you or write down some way you might have denied Jesus recently in your words or actions. (You need not share this with the group.)

- Is there hope for people who deny Jesus? Read John 21:15-19

Forgiveness

- In the small group, take a few minutes to each write down three different expressions of love to Jesus:

1. I love You, Jesus, because . . .
2. I love You, Jesus, because . . .
3. I love You, Jesus, because . . .

(If you feel comfortable doing so, you may share your expressions of love with each other)

- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and discuss together what the encounters that various people had with Jesus that night tell us about Jesus:

- The disciples who fell asleep while Jesus prayed
- The mob that came for Jesus
- Judas
- The high priest's servant
- The priests, captains of the temple and the elders
- Peter

## WITNESS

- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
- ❖ Share any experiences that members of the group may have had during the last week in telling someone else of what God has done.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by putting an empty chair in the center of the group and asking God to fill it.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three” and also pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

### AT THE CROSS

(Note: The *Worship* time will be at the end of this session.)

#### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other.
- ❖ Get better acquainted by briefly answering: What one blessing have you received from this group?
- ❖ Invite someone to have a prayer of thanks for the group.

#### WITNESS

- ❖ Find out if there are any new Ohana groups forming. Encourage each other to make definite plans to start Ohana groups. Talk about how you can help each other start groups.
- ❖ Give time for people to tell how they have been able to share God's love this past week.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
  
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four.**

#### WORD

- ❖ ***Book*** – Read about the trial of Jesus. John 18:12-14, 19, 24, 28-40.
- ❖ ***Look*** at what this passage *means*.
  - How many different people questioned Jesus?
  
  - “Innocent until proved guilty” was *not* the guiding principle in Jesus' trial. How many incidents can you find that demonstrate the injustice of His trial?
  
- ❖ ***Book*** – Read about the crucifixion of Jesus. John 19:1-43.
- ❖ ***Look*** at what the passage *means* by thinking how various people acted and responded to this event.
- ❖ **What do these various encounters tell us about Jesus?**
  - Pilate
  - The Jewish religious leaders (see also Mathew 27:39-43)
  - The Roman soldiers (see also Matthew 27:54)
  - The two thieves crucified with Him. (see also Matthew 27:44 and Luke 34:39-43)
  - Jesus' disciples and followers (see also Matthew 27:55,56)
  - Jesus' mother
  - Joseph of Arimathea
  - Nicodemus
- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

- ❖ **Took** – Read Romans 5:6-8. Personalize the last verse by putting your name into the blanks:

***But God demonstrated His own love***  
***toward \_\_\_\_\_,***  
***in that while \_\_\_\_\_ was still a sinner,***  
***Christ died for \_\_\_\_\_***

## **WORSHIP**

- ❖ Sing together songs that praise Jesus for what He did for us on the cross.  
Suggestions: *Amazing Grace; The Old Rugged Cross; Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.*
- ❖ Pray together by each one completing the sentence: “I love You, Jesus, for dying for me, because . . . .”
- ❖ Conclude your prayer time by softly singing “I Love You, Lord.”
  
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three” and also pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Think and pray about starting your own Ohana group or teaming up with someone to start one.

## ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

### IN THE CEMETERY AND ON THE ROAD

#### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and welcome any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by describing a difficult or sad situation that ended up as a positive or even joyful experience for you.

#### WORSHIP

- ❖ Invite someone to read Matthew 28:1-8.
- ❖ Share with each other by completing the sentence “I’m glad Jesus rose from the grave because . . .”
- ❖ Sing together songs about Jesus such as “Because He Lives,” “Praise the Name of Jesus,” “He Is Lord.”
- ❖ Invite someone to pray for the group.
  
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to do the next sections.

#### WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read Luke 24:13-35.
- ❖ **Look** at what the passage means by discussing the following questions:
  - What kept these two travelers from recognizing Jesus?
  
  - What did Jesus notice about them? (vs. 17)
  
  - From their report of recent happenings, how would you describe the spiritual condition of these two men?
  
  - What do you think of Jesus’ answer to them? (Verses 25-27)
  
  - Why did Jesus give these men a Bible study instead of revealing Himself right away?
  
  - Do you think there was a reason for Jesus’ “vanishing act”?
  
  - Why did the two men immediately return to Jerusalem?

- ❖ **Took –**
  - What would it take for us today to get as excited about Jesus as those two men who raced back to Jerusalem?
  
  - End your time together by praying for the person on your right to be an excited witness for Jesus in his/her home, workplace, community.
  
- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Get updates on new Ohana groups and encourage each other to start new groups.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List, adding any new names and reminding each other to pray for these names during the week.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by placing an empty chair in the center of the group and asking someone to pray that God will fill it.
  
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray “The Prayer of Three” and also pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Think and pray about starting your own Ohana group or teaming up with someone to start one.

ON THE MOUNTAIN

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and welcome any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by sharing with each other how you react to saying goodbye to people you care about. Check all of the following that apply to you:
  - \_\_\_ Try to be upbeat.
  - \_\_\_ Cry.
  - \_\_\_ Get very quiet. Don't talk much.
  - \_\_\_ Talk incessantly.
  - \_\_\_ Tell jokes.
  - \_\_\_ Talk about when you will meet again.
  - \_\_\_ Physically hang onto the person as long as possible.
  - \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by repeating the Serenity Prayer:

*God grant us the serenity to accept the things that we cannot control,  
the courage to change the things we can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen!*

WORD

- ❖ **Book** – Read Mark 16:19,20; Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:1-11.
  - From what location on earth did Jesus go back to heaven?
  - To what location in heaven did Jesus go?
- ❖ **Look** at what these passages *mean* by discussing the following items:
  - List the things Jesus talked about at His last meeting with His disciples:
  - How did the disciples feel and what did they do after Jesus left them? Why did they react the way they did?
  - Mark 16:19 says that Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father when He returned to heaven. What is He doing at the right hand of the Father? Please read



Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, Hebrews 10:11-14; 19-25 and write down as many different things that the group can find that tell us what Jesus is doing for us right now:

- ❖ **Took** – How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is alive and actively involved in doing all He can for you?
  - Take a few moments to personally and privately review the things the group discovered that Jesus is doing in heaven right now. Jot down one or two that you most need Him to do for you:

***The glorious news is that Jesus is alive!  
He still lives to encounter people  
and draw them into a personal, intimate relationship  
with Him!***

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Get updates on new Ohana groups and encourage each other to start new groups.
  - ❖ Review the Blessing List, adding any new names and reminding each other to pray for these names during the week.
  - ❖ Conclude your time together by placing an empty chair in the center of the group and asking someone to pray that God will fill it.
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- ❖ **This next week:**
    - Pray “The Prayer of Three” and also pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
    - Contact your prayer partner.
    - Think and pray about starting your own Ohana group or teaming up with someone to start one.