

Leaders Meeting with Ps Mark Kelsey

Wednesday 14th July, 7pm, Main Auditorium of Oxford Falls Campus. Childminding for 1 to 12 years available. All Connect Leaders, Assistants, Involved team leaders and members and anyone interested in becoming a leader welcome!

Discipleship Tip: Enthusiasm

The word enthusiasm is from the Greek word *entheo*, meaning in God.

Enthusiasm is a key component to building and growing your connect group. Get enthusiastic and your connect group members will be too!

Connect Group Notes 11 July 2010

Encountering God – Ps Mark Saundercock

Is 6:1-9 (NIV).

It's in the House of God that we can have an encounter with the living God. The first thing that happens is that we see God as He really is – a glorious being, filled with love, light, power and beauty.

Heb 11:6. It's not enough to believe that God exists; we have to believe in the nature and character of God. He is a good God who loves us. God is love. **Ps 136.** 'His love endures forever' (referenced 26 times).

When we encounter God, we also see ourselves as we really are. **Is 6:5.** We see ourselves measured against God's yardstick and not that of our worldly peers.

In the midst of a God encounter, God meets our needs and changes our lives – immediately. The Holy Spirit moves in our lives, we meet Jesus Christ.

When we are meeting God, the will of God can be activated in our lives. In **Is 6:8**, Isaiah hears God's voice in the midst of his encounter and receives his purpose to 'go' (and by so doing, to become the greatest prophet in God's bible).

If we stop having encounters with God, we can slip from the House and His grace. We are lost. God wants us to have ongoing encounters with Him.

Encountering God is not just about us

Our encounters are also vital links to people who are waiting on that encounter to be touched in turn. There are people waiting on the other side of OUR next God encounter, even Jesus Christ! Jesus was touched by Isaiah's words, when He read them on the scroll in the temple, a thousand years after they were written.

What do we have to do to have an encounter with God?

Having an encounter with God is easy. God sets us up for success (not failure).

We need to do four things.

1. Pray. **Jam 4:8.** Ask God into your life. He wants and encounter with you (even more than you with Him). **Jer 29:13.**
2. Read the word. On every page, Jesus is looking back at us.
3. Go to church. You will find God in His house. Whatever your situation, keep asking, keep seeking Him, keep turning up!
4. Worship God in the new tongue that He has given you (**1 Cor 14:1-4**). Speaking in tongues edifies God, but also ourselves. We speak directly to God, to the Holy Spirit from the purity of our own spirit (and not through our brain).

TALK ABOUT

- **How have you encountered with God?**
- **What happened? How were you changed?**
- **How have your encounters, in turn, blessed others?**
- **If you are not encountering God, how can you put yourself in a place to do so?**

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