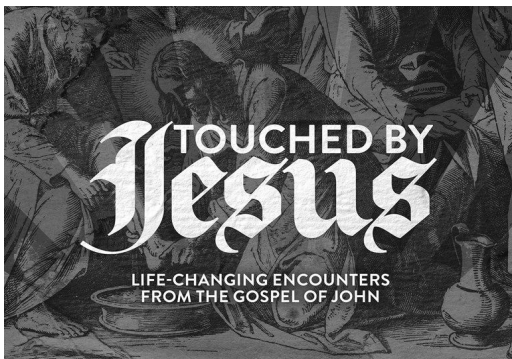


Sunset Adult Education Study Guide

Fall 2025



John: The Personal Gospel - September 7

Tell about an encounter you had with someone who made a life-changing impact on you that altered the direction and outcome of your life. What did this person say or do that made such an impression on you?

Read the book of John. What impresses you the most? What did you learn from your reading?

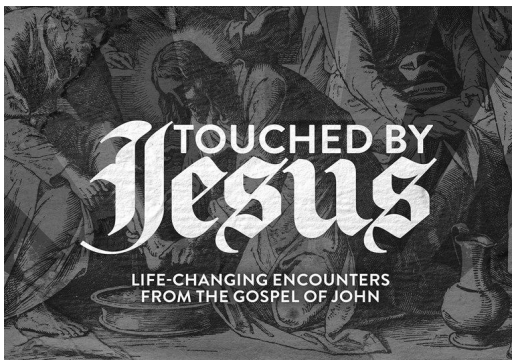
How can we make the most of the opportunities God gives us to make a difference in the lives of the people we encounter each day?

Discuss the concept of Jesus being both fully human and fully God during His time on earth. How was this dual nature demonstrated in His life and ministry?

Which characteristic or description of Jesus do you find most compelling or intriguing? Why?

What are some other ways Jesus touches and transforms lives today?

What should a combination of friendship with the Lord and obedience to Him look like today? How have you experienced that in your life?



Come and See: First Disciples - September 14

Share a time when you felt lost and confused and were seeking direction in life. Who or what helped you get on track to where you needed to be?

Read John 1:35 - 51. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?

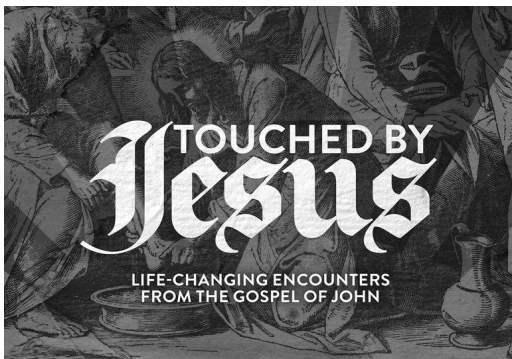
How did John demonstrate humility and an understanding of his place in God's plan? What are some contexts in our world today where we can follow his example?

How many times do we observe the "come and see" approach used in this passage (either stated or implied)? What does this approach involve? Why is it an effective way to make disciples of Christ?

Discuss the different ways Jesus calls people to follow Him, both then and now.

Share different ways you have seen Jesus call people and work in their lives today.

How has following Jesus changed the direction of your life?



Born Again: Nicodemus - September 21

Tell about a situation when you had a hard time grasping something being conveyed to you. How did it make you feel, and how did you react?

Read John 3:1 - 21; 7:45 - 52; 19:38 - 42. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?

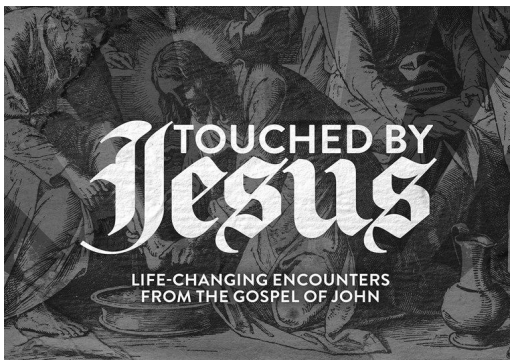
What concepts in these words of Jesus might have been different from what Nicodemus had always thought? How do preconceived thoughts and ideas affect our ability to comprehend new and different ways of thinking?

Consider this quote: "It's easy to think of Christianity as something to be discussed and not as something to be experienced."²⁶ Discuss what this statement means and how it relates to Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus and to us as Christians today.

How would you describe Nicodemus' faith in Jesus here as compared to the time of his conversation with Jesus earlier?

What did Nicodemus and Joseph risk losing by doing these things for Jesus? What did they stand to gain by choosing to follow Him?

Share a time when you experienced a new spiritual insight and how that insight came to you.



Living Water: Samaritan Woman - October 5

Read John 4:1 - 42. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?

How do you think the longstanding bitterness between the Jews and Samaritans affected their witness for God in the world?

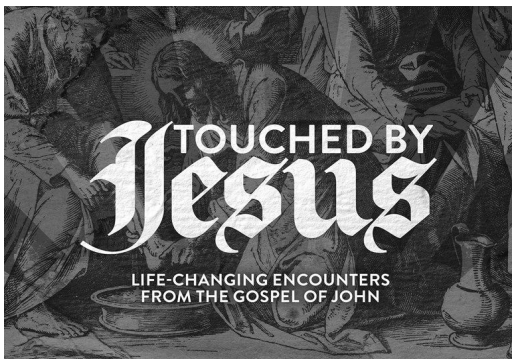
How did Jesus respond to this longtime dispute between the two groups?

How would you describe the “living water” Jesus speaks of in His conversation with the woman? How is the Holy Spirit like streams of living water flowing from within a person (John 7:37-39)?

What does worship “in spirit and in truth” look like? What attitudes and practices should be present in our lives for our worship to be true and right before God?

What are some prejudices we as Christians may have today?

How have you seen God work through unlikely people or circumstances in your life?



Take Jesus at His Word: Royal Official - October 12

Discuss the differences in faith and trust.

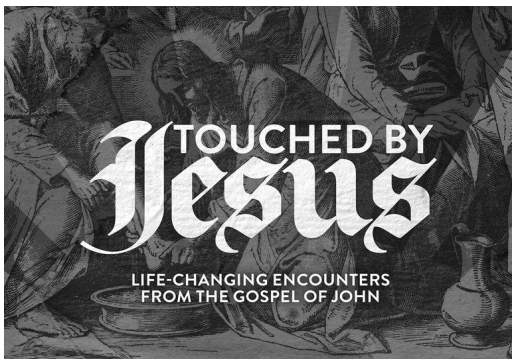
Read John 4:43 - 54. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?

What was the purpose of the miraculous signs Jesus performed during His ministry on earth (see John 20:30-31)? Why do you think Jesus allowed some of His miracles to be public and visible, while others were invisible and at a distance, like this healing of the official's son?

How did taking Jesus at His word build and strengthen the official's faith in Him?

With what promises of the Lord do you find it difficult to take Him at His word? What steps do you need to take in order to grow in this area?

How have you seen God at work in your life, maybe even behind the scenes? What made it possible for you to "see" and acknowledge the things He is doing for you?



Do You Want to Get Well? Man at the Pool - October 19

Why is the desire to get better necessary for healing to take place?

Of all the suffering people at the pool that day, why do you think Jesus chose to heal this man and him only?

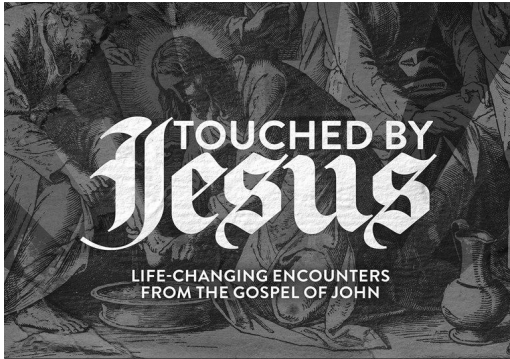
What are some other life-changing consequences that may come with spiritual healing in our lives?

Share a time when God brought good out of a bad situation in your life. How did that affect your faith in Him from that point forward?

What are some practical ways we can help people who are suffering or struggling?

How can we be more present and in tune with the people around us at work, while running errands, or at church?

Read John 5:1 - 15. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?



Go and Sin No More: Adulterous Woman - October 26

Read John 8:1 - 11. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?

What caused the religious leaders to lose their sense of reason and objectivity in their conflict with Jesus?

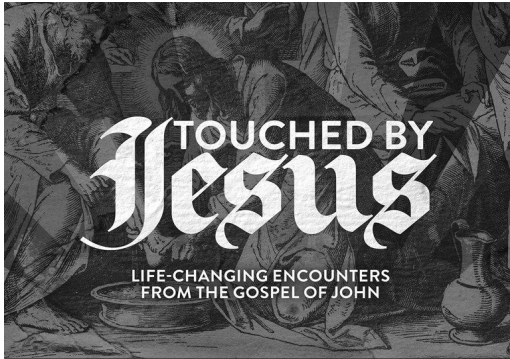
What are some other sins, besides entrapment, that the religious leaders may have been guilty of in this situation?

How was Jesus able to show mercy to the woman without condoning her sin? What can we do to follow His example as we deal with people who are caught up in sin?

Tell of a time when you received a second chance from the Lord. How did that affect your life from that point forward?

What are some specific things God has provided to empower you to live for Him?

How do we balance holding people accountable for their actions and showing them mercy?



I Was Blind, But Now I See: Man Born Blind - November 2

Read John 9:1 - 41. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?

What are some things that can blind us and keep us from seeing what is real and most important in life?

How is Jesus the light of the world?

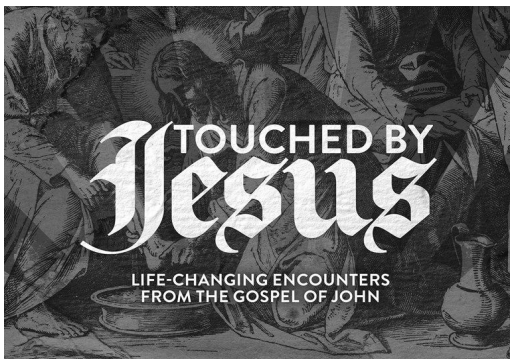
How do people reach the point of turning a blind eye to logical, compelling evidence and refusing to acknowledge truth?

What qualities and attitudes did the man born blind have that enabled his eyes to be opened spiritually?

What qualities and attitudes did the Pharisees have that caused their eyes to be blinded spiritually?

How can suffering demonstrate God's glory in our lives?

Discuss specific ways we can demonstrate God's glory in ministering to those who are suffering.



He Knows Just What I Need: Mary and Martha - November 9

How does your personality affect the way you live your life?

Discuss the omniscience of Jesus and how it enhanced His ministry.

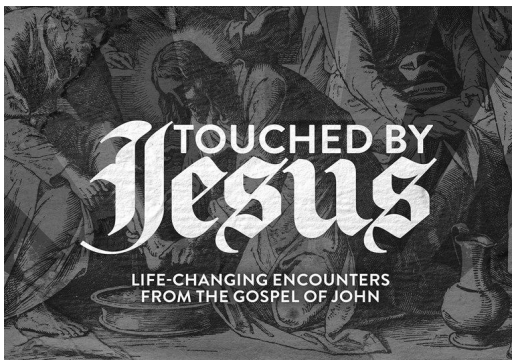
What did Jesus mean when He said, “I am the resurrection and the life”?

How did Martha demonstrate faith in the midst of her grief?

Why do people sometimes become angry with God during suffering and grief?

When experiencing trials in your life, how has God provided what you needed, when you needed it?

Read John 11:1 - 44; 12:1 - 8.
What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?



Read John 13:1 - 17. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?

Do as I Have Done for You: Apostles - November 16

What are some tangible ways we can show our love to others?

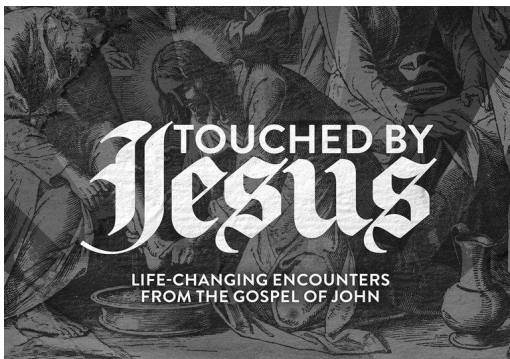
In what ways do Christians sometimes compete with one another to be the “greatest”? What drives that behavior, and how can we overcome it?

Discuss the physical and spiritual nature of Jesus’ act of service to His disciples. What are the implications of that for us today?

What does Jesus’ example teach us about serving others in His name?

What are some blessings we may receive as a result of serving others?

What kinds of people do we find it difficult to serve? How can we overcome our prejudices in who we choose to serve?



I Have Seen the Lord! Mary Magdalene - November 23

Discuss the nature of hope. How do we know when to give up hope or keep it alive?

Read John 20:1 - 18. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?

How did Mary's faith and love for the Lord prompt perseverance and action in her life, even when facing a seemingly hopeless and uncertain future?

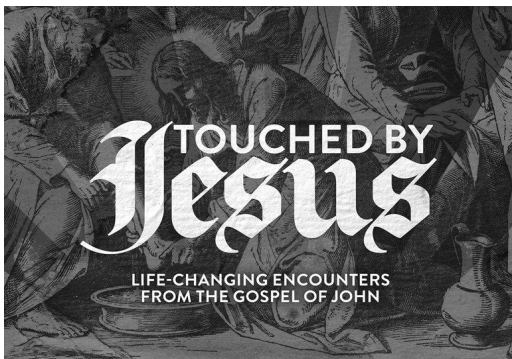
What are some practical steps Mary took to continue to move forward in faith?

How can we follow Mary's example of faith and commitment when we experience difficult circumstances or skepticism today?

How does the promise of resurrection and heaven for those who follow Christ inspire you to keep pressing on with faith and hope?

What kinds of things can pull our focus away from Jesus?

How has the Lord blessed your commitment to honor and serve Him?



Seeing Is Believing: Thomas - November 30

Name some things that we cannot see and yet believe they exist.

Why was it important for Jesus to appear to His disciples following His resurrection?

Why do you think Jesus accommodated Thomas' demand for visual and tactile proof that He had been resurrected?

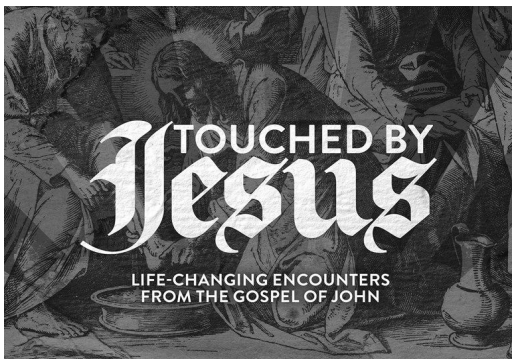
Discuss the difference between doubt and unbelief.

How should we respond to the person who doubts? How should we respond to the person who refuses to believe?

What are some things that may cause us as believers to doubt? What are some different forms our doubt may take?

How do we encourage someone who is struggling with their faith?

Read John 20:24 - 31. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?



Do You Love Me? Peter - December 7

Name times when Peter lived up to his potential of being a “rock.” Discuss other times when he fell short of what Jesus expected of him.

Read John 21:1 - 23. What impressed you about this encounter? What did you learn from this encounter?

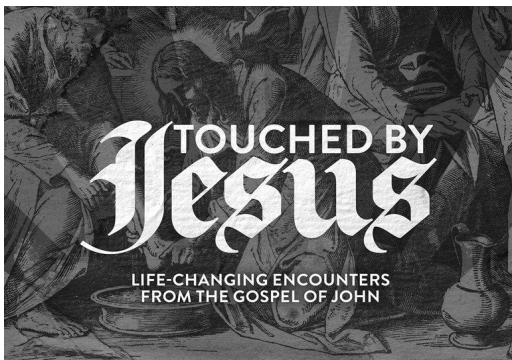
Read Luke 22:31-32 and Mark 16:7. What enabled Peter to come back to Jesus after his failure? Read Matthew 27:1-5. Discuss the contrast between Peter and Judas in the way they reacted to their guilt.

Read Luke 9:46-50. How did Jesus address the competitive spirit of His disciples?

What holds people back from returning to the Lord after they have failed?

What are some things that can compete with our loyalty and love for the Lord?

How do we make our love for the Lord the highest priority in our lives?



What are the overall lessons you took away from this study of Jesus?

Review all the encounters.