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| **Encounter God Contemplation Event** | | | |
| **Venue** | **Topic** | **Activities** | **Supplies** |
| **Youth Room**  Oversee: Mark/Mtha | **See God**  Explore biblical encounters with God | \* Reading: Daniels Vision of God (7:9-10,13-14)  \* Dramatic Readings: Encounters with God  \* Worship Songs: Focus on God | \* Daniel 7 reading sheet  \* Dramatic reading sheets  \* Dramatic readers |
| **House Stairs**  10 minutes  Overseer: Priscilla | **See Me (Sinner)**  A walk up and down stairs to reflect on sin, confession and forgiveness. | \* Read sins on each step on the way up (left side)  \* Read the confession verses on each step on the way down (right side)  \* Carry a brick with you as a symbol of sin. | \* Sins printed on A4  \* Scriptures printed on A4  \* Prestick A4s on stairs |
| **Seminar Room**  10 minutes  Overseer: Andrew | **See Me (Saint)**  The great exchange that took place at the cross | \* Watch the video montage: See Me Saint.mpg  \* Use a water colour pen to write your sins on plastic cards and then dip it into the water at the foot of the cross. | \* PPT: See Me Saint  \* Cross in centre  \* DP and PC and Sound  \* Water pens  \* Plastic cards  \* Bucket of water  \* Towel |
| **Board Room**  10 minutes  Overseer: Cheryl | **See Others**  Prayer for those who are suffering or who are caught up in sin. | Light a candle and say a prayer for someone who is suffering or caught up in sin. | \* Candles  \* Matches  \* Posters of encounters and call to prayer |
| **Wrap Up**  (Youth Room)  Overseer: Mark/Mtha | A response of worship | \* Worship: Songs like Jesus Blood, etc. | \* Worship PPT’s |

**Encounters with God**

**Moses (Exodus 3)**

One day I, Moses, was shepherding the flock of Jethro, my father-in-law, the priest of Midian. I led the flock to the west end of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God. The angel of God appeared to me in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush that was blazing away but did not burn up.

I said: "What's going on here? I can't believe this! Why doesn't the bush burn up?"

God saw that I had stopped to look and called to me from out of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

I said, "Yes? I'm right here!"

God said, "Don't come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob."

I hid my face, because I was afraid to look at God.

God said, "I've taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I've heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them, pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a land lush with milk and honey. The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I've seen for myself how cruelly they're being treated by the Egyptians. It's time for you to go back: I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt."

**Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1-2)**

When I, Ezekiel, was thirty years of age, on the fifth day of the fourth month, the sky opened up and I saw visions of God. I saw an immense dust storm come from the north with lightning flashing from it. Within the fire were what looked like four creatures – each had the form of a human being, but they also had four faces and four wings. Their legs were as sturdy and straight as columns, but their feet were hoofed like those of a calf and sparkled from the fire like burnished bronze. On all four sides under their wings they had human hands. All four had both faces and wings, with the wings touching one another. Tongues of fire shot back and forth between the creatures, and out of the fire, bolts of lightning. The creatures flashed back and forth like strikes of lightning. Over the heads of the living creatures was something like a dome, shimmering like a sky full of cut glass. Under the dome one set of wings was extended toward the others, with another set of wings covering their bodies. When they moved I heard their wings—it was like the roar of a great waterfall, like the voice of The Strong God, like the noise of a battlefield. And then there was a voice from above the dome over their heads. Above the dome there was something that looked like a throne, sky-blue like a sapphire, with a humanlike figure towering above the throne. From the waist up he looked like burnished bronze and from the waist down like a blazing fire. Brightness was everywhere! The way a rainbow springs out of the sky on a rainy day—that's what it was like. It turned out to be the Glory of God!

When I saw all this, I fell to my knees, my face to the ground. Then I heard a voice. It said, "Son of man, stand up. I have something to say to you." The moment I heard the voice, the Spirit entered me and put me on my feet. As he spoke to me, I listened. He said, "Son of man, I'm sending you to the family of Israel, a rebellious nation if there ever was one. They and their ancestors have fomented rebellion right up to the present. They're a hard case - hardened in their sin. Tell them, 'This is the Message of God, the Master.'

**Job (Job 42)**

I, Job, remember like it was yesterday, how God allowed me to be tested by the Devil – he took away from children, my servants and all my livestock – I was totally broke!!! My wise friends came around and said that God was punishing me for sin in my life but I knew that I was innocent. For many days my suffering increased and I began to curse the day that I was born. I spoke too quickly and said some things that I regret saying – blaming God for all my suffering, until the day that God appeared to me. In the past I had lived by rumours of God but now had seen him firsthand - with my own eyes and my own ears. I told God that I was sorry and asked him to forgive me."

**Joshua (Joshua 5)**

One day when I, Joshua, was near Jericho: I looked up and saw right in front of him a man standing, holding his drawn sword. I stepped up to him and said, "Whose side are you on—ours or our enemies'?"

He said, "Neither. I'm commander of God's army. I've just arrived." I fell, face to the ground, and worshiped and asked, "What orders does my Master have for his servant?"

God's army commander said,, "Take your sandals off your feet. The place you are standing is holy."

And I took off my shoes.

**John (Revelation 1)**

I, John, was on the island called Patmos because of God's Word, the witness of Jesus. It was Sunday and I was in the Spirit, praying. I heard a loud voice behind me, trumpet-clear and piercing: "Write what you see into a book. Send it to the seven churches in Asia." I turned and saw the voice.

I saw a seven golden lampstands,

And in the center, the Son of Man, in a robe and gold breastplate,

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword.

His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

I saw this and fainted dead at his feet. His right hand pulled me upright, his voice reassured me: "Don't fear: I am First, I am Last, I'm Alive. I died, but I came to life, and my life is now forever. See these keys in my hand? They open and lock Death's doors, they open and lock Hell's gates. Now write down everything you see: things that are, things about to be.”

**Paul (Acts 26)**

I, Paul, one time thought it was my duty to oppose Jesus of Nazareth. I had the full authority of the high priests and I threw anyone who believed in Jesus into the Jerusalem jail and whenever it came to a vote, I voted for their execution. I stormed through their meeting places, bullying them into cursing Jesus, I was a one-man terror obsessed with obliterating Christians. And then I started on the towns outside Jerusalem. One day on my way to Damascus, armed with papers from the high priests authorizing my action, in the middle of the day a blaze of light, light outshining the sun, poured out of the sky on me and my companions. It was so bright that we fell flat on our faces. Then I heard a voice saying: “Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me? Why do you insist on going against the grain?' “I said, 'Who are you, Master?”

The voice answered, “I am Jesus, the One you're hunting down like an animal. But now, up on your feet—I have a job for you. I've handpicked you to be a servant and witness to what's happened today. I'm sending you off to open the eyes of the outsiders so they can see the difference between dark and light, and choose light, see the difference between Satan and God, and choose God. I'm sending you off to present my offer of sins forgiven, and a place in the family, inviting them into the company of those who begin real living by believing in me.”

What could I do? I couldn't just walk away from a vision like that! I became an obedient believer on the spot. I started preaching this life-change—this radical turn to God and everything it meant in everyday life—right there in Damascus, went on to Jerusalem and the surrounding countryside, and from there to the whole world.

**Samuel (1 Samuel 3)**

I, Samuel, was a young boy who grew up at a time when the revelation of God was rarely heard or seen. One night while Eli the priest was sound asleep and I was in bed in the Temple of God, where the ark of the covenant rested. God called out, "Samuel, Samuel!"

I answered, "Yes? I'm here." And I ran to Eli saying, "I heard you call. Here I am."

Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." And so I did.

God called again, "Samuel, Samuel!"

I got up and went to Eli, "I heard you call. Here I am."

Again Eli said, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to bed." (This all happened before I knew God for myself. It was before the revelation of God had been given to me personally.)

God called again, "Samuel!"—the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, "Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am."

That's when it dawned on Eli that God was calling me. So Eli said to me, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, God. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'"

I returned to his bed.

Then God came and stood before me exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel! Samuel!"

I answered, "Speak. I'm your servant, ready to listen."

Then God said to me, "Listen carefully. I'm getting ready to do something in Israel that is going to shake everyone up and get their attention. The time has come for me to bring down on Eli's family everything I warned him of, every last word of it. I'm letting him know that the time's up. I'm bringing judgment on his family for good. He knew what was going on, that his sons were desecrating God's name and God's place, and he did nothing to stop them. This is my sentence on the family of Eli: The evil of Eli's family can never be wiped out by sacrifice or offering."

**Hagar (Genesis 16)**

I, Hagar, was an Egyptian maid. My master’s wife, Sarai, hadn't produced a child. Sarai said to Abram my master, "God has not seen fit to let me have a child. Sleep with my maid. Maybe I can get a family from her." Abram agreed to do what Sarai said. So Sarai, Abram's wife, took me and gave me to her husband Abram as a wife. He slept with me and I fell pregnant. When Hagar learned that I was pregnant she looked down on me. Sarai told Abram, "It's all your fault that I'm suffering this abuse. I put my maid in bed with you and the minute she knows she's pregnant, she treats me like I'm nothing. May God decide which of us is right."

“You decide," said Abram. "Your maid is your business." Sarai was abusive to me and so I ran away.

An angel of God found me beside a spring in the desert. He said, "Hagar, maid of Sarai, what are you doing here?" I said, "I'm running away from Sarai my mistress."

The angel of God said, "Go back to your mistress. Put up with her abuse. I'm going to give you a big family, children past counting. From this pregnancy, you'll get a son: Name him Ishmael; for God heard you, God answered you.

I answered God by name, "You're the God who sees me! Yes! You saw me; and then I saw you!"

**Mary (Luke 1:26-38)**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and I, Mary, was the virgin. Gabriel greeted me: “Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you.”

I was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured me, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; He will rule Jacob's house forever—no end, ever, to his kingdom."

I said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."

The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest will overshadow you and the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God. Nothing is impossible with God."

And I said, “Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say.

Then the angel left me.

**Manaoh’s Wife (Judges 13)**

When the People of Israel were doing evil in God's sight, God put them under the domination of the Philistines for forty years. My husband was a man named Manoah from the tribe of Dan. I was barren and childless. The angel of God appeared to me and told said: "I know that you are barren and childless, but you're going to become pregnant and bear a son. But take much care: Drink no wine or beer; eat nothing ritually unclean. No razor will touch his head—the boy will be God's from the moment of his birth. He will deliver God’s people from Philistine oppression."

I went to my husband and said, "A man of God came to me. He looked like the angel of God—terror laced with glory! I didn't ask him where he was from and he didn't tell me his name, but he told me, 'You're pregnant. You're going to give birth to a son.

My husband prayed to God: "Master, let the man of God you sent come to us again and teach us how to raise this boy who is to be born."

God listened to him and God's angel came again to me when I was sitting in the field without my husband. I jumped to my feet and ran and told my husband: "He's back!"

Manoah got up and came to the man. He said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to my wife?"

He said, "I am."

Manoah said, "So. When what you say comes true, what do you have to tell us about this boy and his work?"

The angel of God said, "Keep in mind everything I told the woman. Eat nothing that comes from the vine: Drink no wine or beer; eat no ritually unclean foods. She's to observe everything I commanded her."

Manoah said, "Please, stay with us a little longer; we'll prepare a meal for you—a young goat."

God's angel said, "Even if I stay, I won't eat your food. But if you want to prepare a Whole-Burnt-Offering for God, go ahead—offer it!" Manoah had no idea that he was talking to the angel of God.

Then Manoah asked: "What's your name? When your words come true, we'd like to honor you."

The angel of God said, "You ask for my name? You wouldn't understand—it's sheer wonder."

So Manoah took the kid and the Grain-Offering and sacrificed them on a rock altar to God who works wonders. As the flames leapt up from the altar to heaven, God's angel also ascended in the altar flames. When Manoah and I saw this, we fell facedown to the ground but we never saw the angel of God again.

Manoah who realised that it was God's angel, said to me, "We're as good as dead! We've looked on God!"

But I said, "If God were planning to kill us, he wouldn't have accepted our Whole-Burnt-Offering and Grain-Offering, or revealed all these things to us—given us this birth announcement."

Some time later I gave birth to a son and we named him Samson. My son grew and God blessed him.

**Isaiah (Isaiah 6)**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

**Daniels Vision of God**

Daniel 7 (The Message)

In the first year of the reign of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream.

As I was watching all this, Thrones were set in place and The Old One sat down.

His robes were white as snow, his hair was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire, its wheels blazing.

A river of fire poured out of the throne.

Thousands upon thousands served him, tens of thousands attended him.

The courtroom was called to order, and the books were opened.

I saw a human form, a son of man, arriving in a whirl of clouds.

He came to The Old One and was presented to him.

He was given power to rule—all the glory of royalty.

Everyone—race, color, and creed—had to serve him.

His rule would be forever, never ending.

His kingly rule would never be replaced.

**Dramatic Reading of Isaiah 6:1-8**

For four people: two narrators (N1 and N2) and two seraphs (S1 and S2). Narrators stand in the middle of the room.

Layout of readers: S1 S2

N2 N1

N1 **In the year that King Uzziah died**

N2 **I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty**

N1 **And the hem**

N2 **The hem of his robe filled the temple**

N1 **Seraphs were in attendance above him.**

(Two seraphs enter and take their places, covering their faces with their hands except for their mouths.)

N2 **Each had six wings**

N1 **With two they covered their faces**

N2 **And with two they covered their feet**

N1 **And with two they flew**

N2 **And one called to another and said**

S1 **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory** (with power)

S2 **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory** (with power)

(Pause for two seconds)

N1 **The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called**

N2 **And the house filled with smoke**

N1 **And I said**

N2 **Woe is me**

N1 **I am lost**

N2 **For I am a man of unclean lips**

N1 **And I live among a people of unclean lips**

N2 **Yet my eyes have seen the king, the Lord of hosts**

N1 **Then one of the seraphs flew to me** (S1 touches N2's mouth with fingertips)

S1 **Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed**

N2 **Your guilt has departed** (as assurance of pardon to congregation)

S1 **And your sin is blotted out**

N2 **Your sin is blotted out** (as assurance of pardon to congregation)

(Pause for one second--then S1 returns to place)

N1 **Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying**

S2 **Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?**

N1 **And I said**

N2 **Here am I; send me!** (with gratitude and excitement)

**Encounters with God (Print)**

**Moses (Exodus 3)**

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God said, "Don't come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob."

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God said, "I've taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I've heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them, pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a land lush with milk and honey. The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I've seen for myself how cruelly they're being treated by the Egyptians. It's time for you to go back: I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt."

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The voice answered, “I am Jesus, the One you're hunting down like an animal. But now, up on your feet—I have a job for you. I've handpicked you to be a servant and witness to what's happened today. I'm sending you off to open the eyes of the outsiders so they can see the difference between dark and light, and choose light, see the difference between Satan and God, and choose God. I'm sending you off to present my offer of sins forgiven, and a place in the family, inviting them into the company of those who begin real living by believing in me.”

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**See Me (Sinner)**

Imagine a person who lives well, treating others fairly, keeping good relationships:

doesn't eat at the pagan shrines,

doesn't worship the idols so popular in Israel,

doesn't seduce a neighbor's spouse,

doesn't indulge in casual sex,

doesn't bully anyone,

doesn't pile up bad debts,

doesn't steal,

doesn't refuse food to the hungry,

doesn't refuse clothing to the ill-clad,

doesn't exploit the poor,

doesn't live by impulse and greed,

doesn't treat one person better than another,

But lives by my statutes and faithfully honors and obeys my laws.

This person who lives upright and well shall live a full and true life.

Don't worship idols

Don't seduce a neighbor's spouse

Don't indulge in casual sex

Don't bully anyone

Don't pile up bad debts

Don't steal

Don't refuse food to the hungry

Don't refuse clothing to the ill-clad

Don't exploit the poor

Don't live by impulse and greed

Don't treat one better than another

Live by God’s commands

Faithfully honor and obey God

Live upright and well

Treat people fairly

Keep good relationships

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.

I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

You were dead because of your sins. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all your sins.

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

When you are guilty, immediately confess the sin that you've committed

We confess that we have sinned, that we have lived bad lives.

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed.