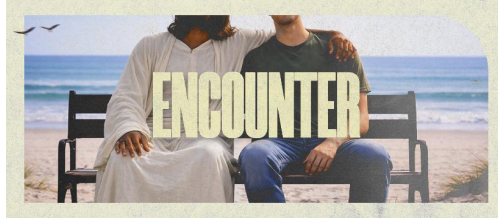


"We were created to encounter God."

**Icebreaker:** Share a memorable encounter or experience you've had that changed your perspective on something important.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. **Reflect on the Theme of Encounter:** How do you differentiate between an "experience" and an "encounter" with God as discussed in the sermon? Can you share a time when you felt you had a genuine encounter with God?
2. **Scripture Reflection:** The sermon references John 20:24-31, focusing on Thomas's encounter with the risen Jesus. How does this passage challenge or affirm your understanding of faith and doubt?
3. **Personal Application:** In what ways can we cultivate a deeper desire to encounter Jesus in our daily lives? What practical steps can you take this week to open yourself to such encounters?
4. **Theological Reflection:** Discuss the statement "Doubt and trust go hand in hand." How does this perspective influence your view of faith and the role of doubt in your spiritual journey?
5. **Community Impact:** How can our church community better support those who are struggling with doubt? What actions can we take to create an environment where questions and uncertainties are welcomed?
6. **Call to Action:** Reflect on the sermon's call to move from "conditions for belief" to "unconditional surrender." What personal conditions do you need to let go of to fully trust in Jesus?



"We were created to encounter God."

## Scripture Exploration

- Read John 20:24-31. What stands out to you about Thomas's reaction to the other disciples' claims?
- How does Jesus respond to Thomas's doubts? What does this tell us about Jesus's character?
- What is the significance of Thomas's declaration, "My Lord and my God"?

## Personal Reflection

- What does Thomas's story teach us about doubt and faith? How does this relate to your personal experiences?
- How does the concept of Jesus as the resurrected Lord affect your understanding of faith?
- In what ways does this passage in John 20 affirm the centrality of the resurrection in Christian belief?

## Personal Application

- How can you cultivate a deeper desire to encounter Jesus in your daily life?
- What steps can you take to create space for encountering God, both individually and within your community?
- How can you support others in your community who may be experiencing doubt or seeking an encounter with Jesus?
- Consider one action you can take this week to live out the truth of Jesus's resurrection in your interactions with others.