Title: **FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT A FRESH ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS:** Date: August 1, 2021

WORSHIP: Sing one or two songs (either from You Tube, or someone leading worship). If you're in a public place, café or on video messaging, three to four people can share testimonies of answered prayers.
Q: What are you thankful to God about this past week?

Text: *"10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon,* ***"Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."*** *11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they [a]forsook all and followed Him." Luke 5: 10-11 (NKJV)*
Quote:"*If we want to see a change in our lives, a shift of direction and if you are not satisfied in where you are in our present situation, then we need a fresh encounter with Jesus! If we know there's so much more that God wants to accomplish in our lives, it's time for a fresh encounter!"*-PB

Leader's Notes:
1. Start and end on time.
2. Facilitate discussions.
3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer
Q: How can we pray for you today?
Q: Who among your loved ones or friends you think need an encounter with Jesus today? Can you list at least five names?

Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another as well as pray for the names of people on your list.
If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.

WELCOME:
Intro: All of us have experienced disappointments and/or frustrations in life! We may at times feel like life is just going around in circles (like a merry go round at a Theme Park) and never going forward or advancing in life.
Ice Breaker:
1. Who is the most famous person you have met in your life? How did you feel during that moment of encountering someone famous?

WORD & Discussion Questions:
1. An encounter with Jesus relies on listening to His voice vv.3-5
Jesus will speak to us through His Word. He will teach us and guide us into all truth. He will guide and direct our paths.
Do you need direction in life, in ministry, at work, at school? Open the Bible and allow Jesus to speak!
Q: In what areas of your life do you need direction and guidance from God (family, work, school, etc.?
2. An encounter with Jesus results in a miracle. vv.6-7
The miracle took place after He obeyed Jesus' instruction! What Peter could not accomplished the whole night, Jesus did it in a snap! What Peter failed to achieve on His own the night before, Jesus did it and showed Peter what He can do!
Q: Have you been in a situation that needed a miracle?
3. An encounter with Jesus produces a conviction vv.8-9
The miraculous catch of fish ignited a sense of unworthiness in Simon's heart! "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." Peter dropped to his knees in such conviction of his sin and unrighteousness before the Holiness of Jesus, bowed his knees before the One who displayed such power!
Q: When you know you have offended God, how do you distinguish conviction from condemnation?
4. An encounter with Jesus follows a calling v.10
The Good News of salvation is something we cannot keep to ourselves! We cannot be tight-lipped! An encounter with Christ cannot stop with us. NO! Jesus commissions us to be "fishers of men."
Q: Can you think of some people you can pray for and share about salvation in Christ?
5. An encounter with Jesus results in surrender. v.11
A disciple of Jesus is willing to leave everything behind—everything that will keep them to whole-heartedly follow Jesus. Peter, Andrew, James and John knew they couldn't do both (fisherman and a fisher of men). Discipleship is not cheap! It costly! It's giving up everything we want in **order to gain what Jesus wants for our lives!**
Q: Is there a particular area in your life that you need to surrender to God?
Conclusion:
God calls ordinary people like you and me to a life of surrender and commitment to follow Him and lead others also. When we choose to fully commit ourselves to Christ and be willing to "go a little deeper, our ordinary lives can be transformed to extraordinary. Jesus is in the business of changing our lives and making us the kind of people He created us to be! Jesus doesn't want you to live an empty life but He wants to live your life to the fullest. (John 10:10)