

Encounter FOUR: Practicing Faith in Daily Life

The purpose of this Encounter is to discuss and plan for how faith might be practiced in the callings and activities of our lives. Insights from this Encounter will help mostly with the 3rd Part of the student's Faith Story about "Being" in the Faith.

1. Begin by briefly sharing any "highs" and "lows" since your last meeting together.
2. Read **Colossians 3:1-17** together. Paul emphasizes that our faith in Jesus should affect every aspect of our lives – our conduct, our words and our values. The love of God should be clearly visible in and through all we do.
3. Use the following thought questions to share your experiences and insights with each other. Think about how your faith is lived out every day of your life. Don't forget: take Notes for the Faith Story!
 - a. What is the most important thing in the life of your friends? How do you show friendship to others? How do you show that you care about other peoples' feelings? In what areas of your life do you experience the most peer pressure? Are you able to stand up for what you believe? How do you model responsible behavior for your friends?
 - b. Do you ever pray about school or work? If so, what are your prayers like? Do you pray at school or work? How does your prayer affect your behavior and study or work habits?
 - c. What do you enjoy doing with your family? Do you have chores or other responsibilities? Are the chores and responsibilities shared in your home? What effect does faith have on the spirit and attitude that members of your family bring to their chores and responsibilities?
 - d. How often do you talk about God, the Bible, or other matters of faith with your family and friends? With whom do you talk about these things?
 - e. "Christian" is a good description of *who we are*. "Disciple" is a good description of *what we seek to do* as a follower of Jesus. Is it possible to have faith in Jesus and NOT follow-up and act on your faith?
 - f. Think of some of your favorite popular songs, movies, and TV shows. What do you like about them? Are there ways in which they present Christian values? Are there ways in which they present values that aren't Christian? What picture of reality do the currently popular reality shows present to the viewers?
 - g. In our relationships, responsibilities, and in the media we are faced with Christian and non-Christian values. How can a Christian keep his or her life defined by the Christian standards and values God wants for us?
 - h. Dating and choosing a life partner is an activity where living as a Christian can be most difficult. Why are Christian values important as you date and get to know each other? Why is it important to marry someone who has a faith in God that you can respect and value?
4. Make plans to greet each other in worship!
5. Check progress on memorization of the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and the three Bible verses.

Close with prayer. Include focus on how to live out our faith in daily life. Pray for these concerns and any other particular prayer concern that either of you might have.