

ENCOUNTERTM

Young Teen & High School

Sunday School Curriculum

FREE SAMPLE LESSON



Download the complete lesson
at **EncounterFace2Face.com**

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ENCOUNTER™ Sunday School Curriculum

Bible-based. Culturally relevant. Personally challenging.

How can teens meet with God face-to-face?

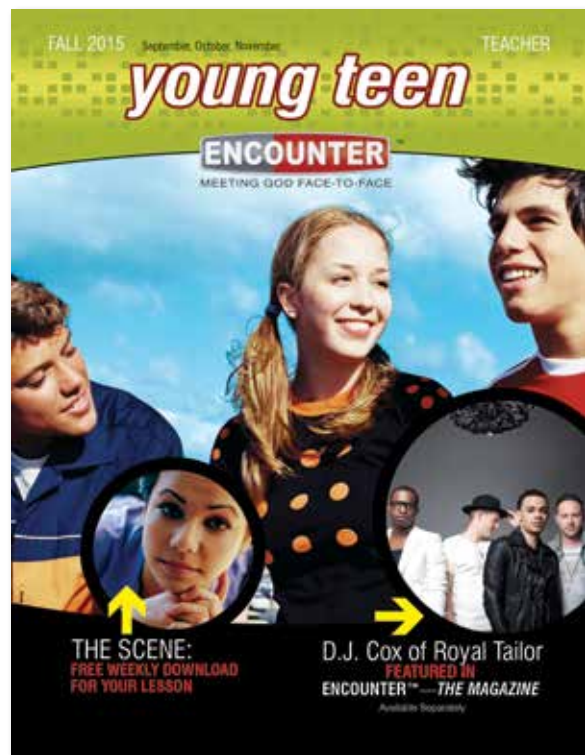
Teens need to experience God actively, firsthand—in a way that relates to their lifestyle and how they communicate. ENCOUNTER brings teens the message of the Bible and relates spiritual truths to the world around them.

Every week, ENCOUNTER challenges students with an engaging Bible study that helps them understand God, the Bible, doctrine, or a biblical worldview. Your students experience lessons in ways that fit their learning styles.

Check out the back cover for ordering information

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- **Teacher's Convenience Kits**
This kit includes the teacher guide, one student book, posters, reproducible files, one set of magazines, and a CD-ROM with audio skits, digital posters, video clips, and more!
 - **Teacher Guides**
Includes Scripture commentary, activities, and resource suggestions.
 - **Student Books**
Have your students participate in Bible study with case studies, discussion questions, self-evaluations, and more activities.
 - **Take-Home Magazine**
Learn more on page 3.
 - **Free Online Resources**
Learn more on page 14.
- Price \$4.49–\$29.99



Students can take home a magazine that connects with every week's lesson.

ENCOUNTER™

The Magazine

ENCOUNTER—*The Magazine* challenges students to bring home what they have studied. This 8-page weekly magazine contains engaging articles, interviews, stories, daily lesson-related devotions, quizzes, and poetry.

Download a free sample at EncounterFace2Face.com/magazine

Do your teens have a message to share? Encourage them to e-mail their poems, stories, or works of art with a Christian message to be considered for our Expressions feature.

They may also submit testimonials for My Story (550 words or less).

Have them send their work to us at: encounter@standardpub.com and remind them to include their date of birth, home address, and e-mail address so we can contact them and pay them if we use their work!



young teen

ENCOUNTER™

Every week, **ENCOUNTER** challenges students with an age-appropriate, engaging Bible study that helps them understand God, the Bible, or a biblical worldview. Flexible lessons include application points relevant to the experiences of your middle school students and activity options designed to fit various learning styles—drama, visual arts, music, writing, and discussions.

HOW IT WORKS

Each week's lesson follows 4 easy steps:

1. Setting the Stage—students define the week's topic
2. Searching the Word—students get into the Bible
3. Making It Real—students learn how the topic applies to their world
4. Living It Out—students apply the week's topic to their personal lives

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- **Student Book***—Meaningful case studies, ready-to-use discussion questions, enlightening self-evaluations, and more to help students apply what they are learning to their everyday lives
- **ENCOUNTER—The Magazine***—13 full-color, 8-page, weekly magazines filled with engaging articles and real-life stories, daily lesson-related devotions and even safe, parent-approved online activities. (Sets of 13 issues are sold in packs of 5—get one set for every student!)

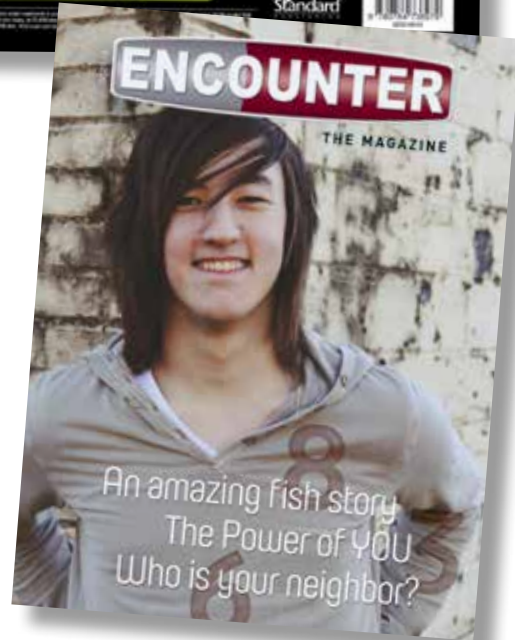
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WHY YOU WILL LOVE IT!

ENCOUNTER is:

- **Planned**
ENCOUNTER is built on a 3-year curriculum plan that was created after consulting with student ministry experts and teens.
- **Packed**
ENCOUNTER gives you a virtual toolbox for preparing creative, content-rich studies.
- **Personal**
ENCOUNTER allows you to customize each lesson for your teens.

Flexible resources built to fit any group!
Lesson length 45–90 minutes.



young teen Scope & Sequence

ENCOUNTER™

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
Year 1	<p>Focus on the Finish Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing the Big Picture • Knowing God's Will • Making Wise Choices <p>Challenges to a Biblical Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is There More We Should Know? (The Challenge of Mormonism) • Which Church Has the True Gospel? (The Challenge of Jehovah's Witnesses) • Shouldn't More Be Required? (The Challenge of Islam) • Aren't We All Part of God? (The Challenge of Wicca) <p>Famous Women of the Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth—A Woman of Loyalty • Abigail—A Woman of Peace • Hannah—A Woman of Gratitude <p>Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority—Why Have It? • Authority—Why Respect It? • Authority—How Do I Use It? 	<p>Descriptions of Jesus the Messiah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonderful Counselor • Mighty God • Everlasting Father • Prince of Peace <p>The Christian and Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All About Anger • How to Express Anger • How to Resolve Conflict • How to Forgive <p>Highlights of 1 Timothy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faithfulness • Leadership • Example • Relationships • Hope 	<p>Looking for True Friends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Pressure • It's Just Me, Lord • An Ideal Friendship • Reach Out and Make New Friends <p>Meeting God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting God in Prayer • Meeting God in Communion • Meeting God Through Fasting • Meeting God Through Worship • Meeting God Through Fellowship <p>Trusting God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trusting God When I Feel Anxious • Trusting God When I Feel Like a Failure • Trusting God When I Feel Hurt • Trusting God When I Feel Rejected 	<p>The 10 Commandments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Other Gods • No Idols • Honor God's Name • Take Time for God • Honor Your Parents • Do Not Murder • Do Not Commit Adultery • Do Not Steal • Do Not Lie • Do Not Covet <p>Understanding Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Was God Thinking? • What Do I Do Now? • Pardon Me?
Year 2	<p>Take Charge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Charge of Your Health • Take Charge of Your Habits • Take Charge of Your Emotions • Take Charge of Your Attitude • Take Charge of Your Example <p>Outcasts Jesus Encountered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Sinful Woman • Zachaeus • Blind Bartimaeus • Ten Men with Leprosy <p>Sharing the Good News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to the Call • Overcoming Obstacles • Clarifying the Truth • Using Every Opportunity 	<p>Your Possessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Want More! • It's All Yours, Lord! • Use It; Don't Abuse It • What More Could We Want? <p>Your Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be His • Stretch Seconds • Seek Success • Take Time <p>The Work of Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building His Kingdom • Trusting in Jesus • No One Knows Like Jesus • Are You Committed? • Become a Servant 	<p>What to Know Before You Date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Definition of Love • The Necessity of Respect • The Call to Purity • The Process of Preparation <p>Famous Men of the Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David—Confident in God • Thomas—Overcoming Doubt • Daniel—Devoted to the Lord • Abraham—Unshaken Faith • Solomon—Wisdom From Above <p>Dispelling Myths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Death? • No Rules? • No Consequences? • No Responsibility? 	<p>Being Real</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding Hypocrisy • Showing Compassion • Practicing Humility • Demonstrating Integrity <p>Parables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lost Son • The Lost Coin • The Great Banquet • The Sower, the Seed, and the Soil • The Pharisee and the Tax Collector <p>Making a Difference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning a Difference in Your Work • Making a Difference in Your School • Making a Difference in Your Community • Making a Difference in the World
Year 3	<p>Living the Real Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triumph Over Temptation • Fight Favoritism • Zip the Lip • Get a New Boss • Power Up <p>Satan, Angels, and Demons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satan's Purpose • Satan's Scuffle • The Work of Angels • About Demons • Spiritual Warfare <p>Contentment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Results of Discontent • How to Be Content • Content, but Not Satisfied 	<p>Christ-Centered Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who's Center Stage? • What's the Point? • What Am I Seeking? • What Can I Bring? <p>Self-Esteem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trusting God • Seeing the Heart • Choosing Humility • Serving Like Christ <p>Building According to Code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Reason to Build • Unveiling the Plan • Following the Blueprints • Construction Costs • The Grand Opening 	<p>Sportsmanship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Team, the Whole Team, and Nothing But the Team • Practice Makes Permanent • It's How You Play the Game • Cool Head, Warm Heart <p>Christian Evidences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did Jesus Really Die? • Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead? • Is Jesus Really Lord? • Is Jesus Really the Only Way to Heaven? <p>The Perfect Family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Responsibilities of Parents • The Blessings of Obedience • The Causes of Conflict • The Conquest of Crises • Family of God 	<p>Miracles in Matthew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavenly Help • Super-Sized Lunch • Foul-Weather Faith • The Fisherman King • Sincerely His <p>The Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning About Our World • Seeing and Believing • The Value of Music • The Christian Cyber-Citizen <p>Lessons from Job</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why Me, Lord? • How Can I Help? • I Hurt! • It's You and Me, Lord

high school

ENCOUNTER™

Every week, ENCOUNTER challenges students with an age-appropriate, engaging Bible study that helps them understand God, the Bible, or a biblical worldview. Flexible lessons include application points relevant to the experiences of your high school students and activity options designed to fit various learning styles—drama, visual arts, music, writing, and discussions.

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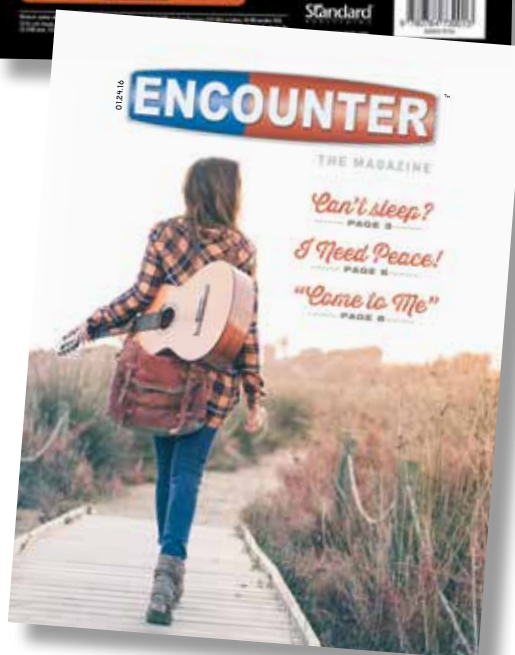
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Lesson length 45–90 minutes.



high school Scope & Sequence

ENCOUNTER™

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
Year 1	<p>Preparing for the Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing the Big Picture • Knowing God's Will • Making Wise Choices <p>Challenges to a Biblical Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God and His Message (The Challenge of Mormonism) • God and Truth (The Challenge of Jehovah's Witnesses) • God and Justice (The Challenge of Islam) • God and Nature (The Challenge of Wicca) <p>Famous Women of the Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Price of Power (Esther) • Lessons in Leadership (Deborah) • Man's Trash, God's Treasure (Rahab) <p>Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Final Word on Authority • Rebel or Respect? • Now What? 	<p>Descriptions of Jesus the Messiah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonderful Counselor • Mighty God • Everlasting Father • Prince of Peace <p>The Christian and Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Prevent Anger • How to Express Anger • How to Resolve Conflict • How to Forgive <p>Highlights of 2 Timothy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faithfulness • Self-Discipline • Christian Character • Relationships • Confidence 	<p>Friendships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Pressure • Loneliness • Close Christian Friends • Conquering Cliques <p>Meeting God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting God in Prayer • Meeting God in the Lord's Supper • Meeting God Through Fasting • Meeting God in Worship • Meeting God Through Christian Fellowship <p>Trusting God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trusting God When I Feel Anxious • Trusting God When I Feel Like a Failure • Trusting God When I Feel Used • Trusting God When I Feel Rejected 	<p>Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding Happiness • Our Mission • Jesus and God's Law • Healing Hating Hearts • Speaking with Credibility • Trusting Divine Justice • Knowing What Really Matters • Offering Advice • Following the Right Leaders • From Learning to Life <p>Understanding Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Works or Faith? • About Law and Sin • From Salvation to Glorification
Year 2	<p>Take Charge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Charge of Your Health • Take Charge of Your Habits • Take Charge of Your Emotions • Take Charge of Your Attitude • Take Charge of Your Example <p>Outcasts Jesus Encountered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Woman Caught in Adultery • Matthew, the Tax Collector • The Thief on the Cross • The Woman at the Well <p>Sharing the Good News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting Responsibility • Overcoming Opposition • Presenting the Truth • Seizing Every Opportunity 	<p>Our Possessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having the Right Attitude • Being Honest with God • Managing Our Wealth • Recognizing the Greatest Possession <p>Our Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting God First • Using Time Wisely • Listening for God's Call • Learning to Rest <p>Jesus Christ: His Ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He Trained Disciples • He Performed Miracles • He Shared Human Hardship • He Tested His Followers • He Served 	<p>Dating, Courtship, and Marriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship Wisdom • Relationships of Respect • Relationships of Purity • Relationships that Last <p>Famous Men of the Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elijah—Courage to Stand • Cleopas—Finding Hope • Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—Loyal Believers • Joshua and Caleb—Trusting God • Jonah—Roadblocks to Forgiveness <p>Dispelling Myths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Death? • No Rules? • No Consequences? • No Responsibility? 	<p>Being Real</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding Hypocrisy • Showing Compassion • Practicing Humility • Demonstrating Integrity <p>Parables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Two Sons • The Lost Sheep • The Workers in the Vineyard • The Growing Seed • The Persistent Widow <p>Making a Difference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a Difference on the Job • Making a Difference in Your School • Making a Difference in Your Community • Making a Difference in the World
Year 3	<p>Set Free: A Study of Galatians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity vs. Religion • Integrity vs. Hypocrisy • Slavery vs. Sonship • Natural vs. Supernatural • Community vs. Isolation <p>Satan, Angels, and Demons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satan's Plan • Satan's Showdown • The Work of Angels • About Demons • Spiritual Warfare <p>Contentment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cause of Discontent • Choosing Contentment • Content, but Not Satisfied 	<p>Something to Sing About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Room • Hark the Herald Angels Sing • While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks • We Three Kings <p>Self-Esteem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence • Beauty • Humility • Generosity <p>God's Plan for the Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The God of Second Chances • The God of Powerful Beginnings • The God of a Healthy Church • The God of Courageous Witnesses • The God of All Nations 	<p>Tough Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Value of Life • True to God's Design • Saving Your Best • Breaking Barriers <p>As Real As It Gets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Death That Makes a Difference • No Doubt About It • Call Him Lord • One Way Road Ahead <p>Family Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Role of Parents • The Results of Respect • Family Conflict • Family Crises • The Family of God 	<p>Miracles in Mark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking Blockades, Healing Lives • When Storms Come • A Matter of Life and Death • Faith Beyond Borders • One Step at a Time <p>The Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just the Facts • More Than Entertainment • With a Song • Online, Not Out of Line <p>Coping with Crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Bad Things Happen • Helping the Hurting • Where Is God When It Hurts? • God Is There

Each lesson's main theme is easy to find.

Simple, four-step plan for each lesson.

Lesson Scripture provided for teachers here.

He Shared Human Hardship

Lesson 11

Unit Three: Jesus Christ: His Ministry
Scripture: John 11:32-36; Hebrews 2:10; 4:14-16
Life Focus: Jesus can identify with us, even in our darkest moments.

Having a Bad Day?

You know you are having a bad day when a local news team arrives at your school to investigate tainted cafeteria food right after lunch. You know you are having a bad day when you are following a car covered with gang symbols and your horn starts blowing and remains stuck. You know you are having a bad day when you realize that while you thought you put shampoo on your head, it was actually hair removal cream.

We all have bad days. We all wonder, *Why me?* We sometimes question whether anyone really understands what we are going through. The Bible teaches that there *is* someone who understands. Jesus has walked where we walk. His suffering brings about *completion, comfort, and confidence.*

Continued on next page. ➤

Hide It in Your Heart

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick."
—*Matthew 14:14*

For a pre-session or take-home activity, lead kids in memorizing this key passage, using the puzzle found on the *High School Resources CD.*

John 11:32-36
³²When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴"Where have you laid him?" he asked.
"Come and see, Lord," they replied.
³⁵Jesus wept.
³⁶Then the Jews said, "See how he loves him!"

Hebrews 2:10
¹⁰In bringing many sons and daughters into the world, God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

Hebrews 4:14-16
¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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High School Teacher, Unit 3, Lesson 11

TRY A FREE SAMPLE
EncounterFace2Face.com

Encountering God's Word

COMPLETION

Hebrews 2:10
Can a rich politician really understand the effects of poverty? Can a parent who went to a safe, suburban school really understand what his or her child is going through in a violent, urban school? Can a celibate priest really counsel a married couple with problems? While those questions have not been definitively answered, a similar one has. "Can the Christ save human beings without having tasted their suffering?"

In Hebrews 2:10, the writer indicated that Jesus was made "perfect through what he suffered." The word *perfect* used here does not refer to removing moral imperfection, since Jesus had none. It means to "complete" or "finish." (Note how the same word is translated in John 19:30.) Jesus was not able to complete His task to save us without suffering like us. Jesus is described in Hebrews 2:10 as "the pioneer of [our] salvation."

The word for *pioneer* may also be translated "leader, captain, guide, or trailblazer." This term shows that the reference to Jesus' suffering is not limited to general pain but extends beyond that to the suffering of death. Jesus not only experienced general hurts before we did; He also led the charge into the jaws of death so that we may safely pass through them as well.

Centuries before Christ, the prophet Isaiah revealed that God's Messiah would not be a judge on a pedestal looking down on human suffering. He would be "a man of suffering," one who would experience the full extent of our hurts firsthand (Isaiah 53:3). For that reason, followers of Jesus in the New Testament did not shrink from suffering but counted it as an honor to experience willingly what Jesus also experienced (Acts 5:41; Philippians 3:10; 1 Peter 4:1).

Jesus fully experienced hardship, like any other human being.

Jesus can provide comfort to others who hurt because He understands hardship.

Jesus' love for Lazarus (v. 36). Even the Jewish leaders recognized Jesus' deep love for others. Some have speculated that Jesus' tears were not for the death of His friend, since He knew that He would raise that friend back to life. But we who are convinced that we will see a departed loved one soon still sorrow at his or her passing. There is no reason not to believe that Jesus did not experience that same sorrow. In fact, by experiencing that sorrow, He was able to comfort Lazarus's sisters more fully.

This model of sharing sorrow in order to comfort continues in the body of Christ, His church. Paul told the church at Corinth that God comforts us during times of pain or loss so that we can be equipped to be a credible and effective comforter to someone facing the same trials (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4). He argued that "our comfort abounds through Christ," giving us authentic consolation (v. 5).

CONFIDENCE

Hebrews 4:14-16
It is human nature to look at suffering people with disdain, reasoning that they got what they deserved. If we have not experienced a certain trial, we may be tempted to feel superiority and treat the sufferer with contempt. In fact, the common teaching of the Jews in Jesus' day was that even those born with a disability deserved it, either because of a sin committed in the womb or a sin committed by one's parents (John 9:2, 34). We can be brutal to those whose trials we do not understand.

But the sufferings of Jesus keep this from happening. Jesus sympathizes with our weakness since He endured the same trials and temptations that we face (Hebrews 4:14, 15). The result is that we can be confident when facing judgment, expecting mercy and grace rather than superiority and condemnation (v. 16).

Perfect love ("completed" or "finished," as discussed above) is shown by the sacrifice of Christ (1 John 4:10). This kind of love can be relied on, driving out fear of judgment (vv. 16-18). The suffering of Jesus teaches us that He understands our pain and will grant mercy to those who belong to Him.

Even on the worst days of our lives, we have reason for hope. Our suffering Savior was shown to be qualified by suffering. He can comfort us because He too has suffered. And finally, we can know He will be merciful because He has endured the trials and temptations of this world.

We can be sure that a Savior who understands us will be merciful.

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He Shared Human Hardship, Lesson 11

Scripture commentary pulls out main points to emphasize.

Each step has two or three activity options. Choose one that suits your group.

Suggested teacher script is provided in bold to make leading easy—even for new teachers!

Supplemental online material—free for every lesson!

Setting the Stage Step 1

Life Focus: Jesus can identify with us, even in our darkest moments.
Use either activity on this page to help your students complete this sentence: "The worst time of my life was when..."

QUICK STEP Quick Draw

As students arrive, have them turn to page 44 in the student books. They need to assume that they are represented by the stick figure. By adding other characters, thought and speech balloons, props, and backgrounds as they see fit, they are to illustrate what they went through on the worst day of their lives.

When all students have arrived and have had an opportunity to complete the drawing, ask volunteers to share their work.

Lead a discussion with these questions:

- List some emotions you experienced and thoughts you had on that day. How did your suffering affect your relationships with other people on that day? How did your experience help you understand people who are going through similar situations now?
- How would it have felt then to have had a trusted friend who had gone through similar trials? What might you have asked your friend at that time?

Lead into the Bible study by saying: We all have bad days. We all wonder, **Why me?** We sometimes question whether anyone really understands what we are going through. The Bible teaches that there *is* someone who understands. Jesus has walked where we walk. Let's see what the Bible says about His trials and troubles.

Bad Day

Cue the video to the line, "Hi, Miss Hattie." In this clip, the girls were scolded for having a bad sales day. End with the line, "Go clean something of mine." (Note: At the time of publication, this video clip, entitled "Bad Sales Day," can be downloaded from www.wingclips.com.)

If you have a computer available, you may choose to show our classic TV commercial "Swede Surrender" from the resources CD instead of using the Hollywood clip. (Note that videos on the CD are also available in iTunes/iPhone/iPad compatible format in the folder Converted_Videos.)

Discuss either clip with these questions:

- List some emotions you think the characters experienced in this clip.
- Talk about a terrible day that you thought was the worst day of your life. How would it have felt to have had a trusted friend who had gone through similar trials? What might you have asked that friend at that time?

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The Scene

For an opening activity based on a current news headline, download The Scene online. Go to <http://www.encounterface2face.com/>. There you'll find a free article with discussion questions to begin this week's lesson.



High School Teacher, Unit 3, Lesson 11

Time
10 minutes

art

Materials

High School Student, pens



Time
10 minutes

video

Materials

copy of *Despicable Me* (2010) (or High School Resources CD), audiovisual equipment



news



Step 2 Searching the Word

Life Focus: Jesus can identify with us, even in our darkest moments.
Use either activity on this page to help your students explain why God allowed Jesus to suffer hardship on earth.

QUICK STEP Realign the Outline

Divide your class into groups of three to five students. Have each group work together to correct the outline found on page 45 of the student book.

Move among the groups as they work on this activity. Help them understand each Scripture verse and match it correctly. Refer to the commentary in *Encountering God's Word* and these answers to help you:

- I. Complete—Hebrews 2:10; Isaiah 53:3
- II. Comfort—John 11:32-36; Matthew 14:9-14; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
- III. Confidence—Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 4:10, 16-18

When group work is complete, have students share their answers. Comment as needed, making sure that each of the main points is made clearly and completely.

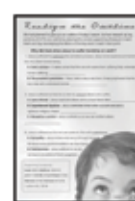
Move into the next section of the lesson with these words: **Jesus fully experienced hardship, like any other human being. He can comfort us because He too has suffered. We know Jesus will be merciful to us because He understands the trials and temptations of this world. Let's examine how these facts help Christians who are suffering today.**

Time
20 minutes

puzzle

Materials

High School Student, Bibles, pens



Time
20 minutes

creative writing

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, paper, pens, Bibles
(optional: sample sympathy cards)

Sending the Very Best

Divide the class into groups of three to five students each. Write on the board the following Scripture assignments:

- Completion—Jesus is able to save us from suffering, having fully experienced suffering himself (Hebrews 2:10; Isaiah 53:3).
- Comfort—Jesus sympathizes with our suffering because He experienced similar hurts (John 11:32-36; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5).
- Confidence—We know that our Savior will be merciful because He too experienced temptation (Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 4:10, 16-18).

Distribute paper and pens to each group. Each group should create a sympathy card based on one or more of the above assignments. Sample verse:

"Though He came from Heaven on high,
He knows how it feels to have a friend die."
May you be comforted by the master who has shared your sorrows.
(John 11:32-36; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

When group work is complete, have each group share its card. Comment as needed, making sure that the main points of the lesson are made clearly and completely.

Move into the next section of the lesson with these words: **Jesus fully experienced hardship, like any other human being. He can comfort us because He too has suffered. We know Jesus will be merciful to us because He understands the trials and temptations of this world. Let's examine how these facts help Christians who are suffering today.**

He Shared Human Hardship, Lesson 11

Lesson focus and activity goals repeated at the top of every page for quick reference.

Materials and the approximate time needed for each activity are always shown in the margins.

Making It Real Step 3

Life Focus: Jesus can identify with us, even in our darkest moments. Use either activity on this page to help your students examine how certain Christians handle suffering today.

QUICK STEP Voices of Suffering

Write on the board the outline of today's Bible lesson:

- Completion, Hebrews 2:10
Jesus fully experienced hardship, like any other human being.
- Comfort, John 11:52-56
Jesus can provide comfort to others who hurt because He understands hardship.
- Confidence, Hebrews 4:14-16
We can be sure that a Savior who understands us will be merciful.

Play the soliloquies from Track 3 of the CD. After playing the track, discuss it in relation to the Bible study outline on the board. Explain how the fact that Jesus endured hardship helped each of these people face trials.

Move into the final section of the lesson by saying: **We do not serve a God who is detached from our suffering, but a Savior whose example comforts people to this day. Let's decide to put a personal hardship in Jesus' hands.**

"God Knows"

Distribute copies the February 14, 2016 issue of ENCOUNTER—The Magazine. Write on the board the following questions:

- **What are some ways Monty suffered? Which of these do you think would have been the hardest to endure?**
- **Why did it help Monty to learn that Jesus had experienced many of the same feelings of rejection and loneliness?**

Have students form small groups and turn in their magazines to "God Knows." Volunteers can take turns reading short sections of the story until the entire story has been read aloud. Then group members should answer and be ready to report on the questions.

After groups have shared their answers, move into the final section of the lesson by saying: **We do not serve a God who is detached from our suffering, but a Savior whose example comforts people to this day. Let's decide to put a personal hardship in Jesus' hands.**

Time
15 minutes

audio skit

Materials
whiteboard, dry-erase marker,
High School Resources CD, audio
equipment



Time
20 minutes

report

Materials
ENCOUNTER—The Magazine for each
student, whiteboard, dry-erase marker



High School Teacher, Unit 3, Lesson 11

Each lesson utilizes helpful resources such as magazine articles, video clips, and audio skits—all available when you purchase a kit!

Step 4 Living It Out

Life Focus: Jesus can identify with us, even in our darkest moments. Use either activity on this page to help your students place a personal hardship in the care of Jesus.

QUICK STEP Suffering Certificate

Instruct your students to turn to page 46 in *High School Student* and complete the certificate. Ask them to select two specific areas of personal suffering that they currently face or believe they will face in the future, and choose two ways that Jesus can bring comfort to them when they suffer. Students are to keep the certificates in visible places during the coming week and remember Jesus' help in suffering whenever they see the certificates. Close in prayer, affirming the importance of Jesus' presence in our lives and praying for individual students as they struggle with issues of suffering. If you have not yet done so, distribute ENCOUNTER—The Magazine.

Time
10 minutes

self-evaluation

Materials
High School Student, paper, pens



Time
10 minutes

object lesson

Materials
copies of p. 56 of this book, scissors,
pens



Sealed and Delivered

Distribute copies of page 56 and make pens and scissors available to all students. This paper-folding activity will create a small envelope embossed with a cross to remind students of this lesson during the coming week. Have students think of the biggest personal hardship that they now face and then write it in the space provided on the activity page. They will then cut out the paper square and follow the folding instructions. As a result, they will have created an envelope marked with Jesus' cross and with their hardship sealed inside.

Say: **Jesus suffered human hardship as we do. He knows what we go through. Keep this envelope with you throughout the week as a reminder that you have sealed your hardship into His care and have delivered it to Him.**

Close in prayer, affirming the importance of Jesus' presence in our lives and praying for individual students as they struggle with issues of suffering. If you have not yet done so, distribute ENCOUNTER—The Magazine.

ENCOUNTER™

Here's what's in ENCOUNTER—The Magazine this week:

- "Your Will Be Done"
- Finding the way home
- Daily Devotions on suffering and healing

He Shared Human Hardship, Lesson 11

Each activity type is tagged in the margin for quick identification as you build your lesson.

Send your students home with ENCOUNTER—The Magazine to keep them focused all week!

Teach students how to respond to everyday life by using the timeless truths of Scripture. Download The Scene each week and begin your lesson with a topic your teens will love to weigh in on!

Don't forget to check out **The Scene**—relevant current events with discussion questions to engage your students in each lesson! Find it at **EncounterFace2Face.com**

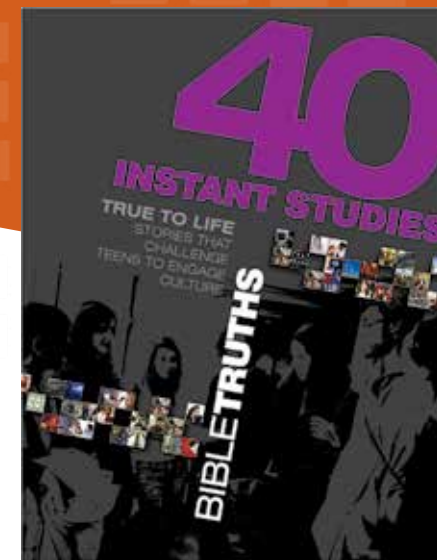
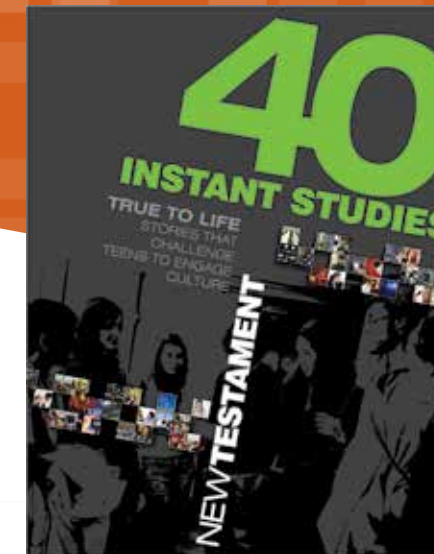
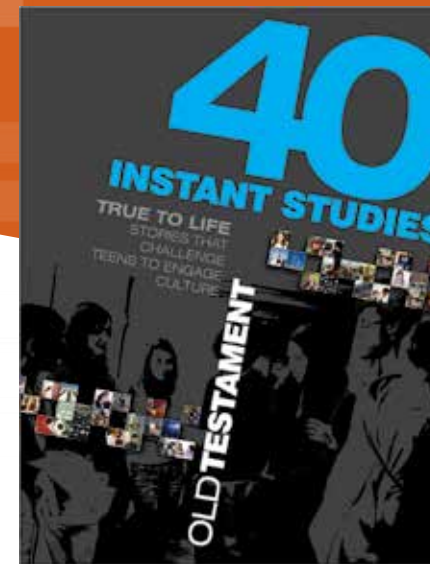


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