



The Spaces Way

6 WEEKS FOUNDATIONS



Making room for young people

The journey of faith in a Spaces group

Jesus told him “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me”

John 14:6 (NLT)

Aims/Objectives

The aim of this series is to introduce the group to the idea that becoming a disciple of Jesus is a journey and their Spaces group is a place where they can be encouraged and supported on that journey. It offers group members the opportunity to reflect on each stage of the journey and consider where on the journey they might be and what support they might need to move forward.



In this series we'll reflect on what it means to live life the Jesus way and the journey of faith that lies at the heart of the Spaces group. The faith journey is about engaging with Christianity, exploring what the Bible tells us about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, encountering Jesus for ourselves and expanding His kingdom by passing on the Good News to others.

In the Star Wars series, *The Mandalorian*, viewers are introduced to the moral code by which the warrior race, the Mandalorians, are expected to live. The code is summed up in one simple phrase 'This is the Way.' Unfortunately, other than the sense that it's generally good rather than evil (and a few occasional specifics) it's not entirely clear what 'The Way' is. Creating a new way of living might be quite fun in a galaxy far, far away but the Spaces Way isn't some new or alternative way of approaching and engaging with the Christian faith. We need to be clear at the very start that the Spaces Way is the Jesus way.

Many young people's experiences of faith (and possibly our own as well) may have been formed by a 'top down' mentality. God is 'up there' (somewhere), a group of people (because there is safety in numbers) try to engage with Him and every effort must be made by individuals in the group to avoid eye contact with Him (in case he singles you out). The Spaces

Way puts Jesus not 'up there' but in the very centre of the meeting, it places the priority on the individual and their relationship with Jesus. As a result, the group becomes a place of mutual support rather than somewhere to hide.

Whilst these session outline some foundational principles on which Spaces groups operate, as the theologian Eugene H Peterson puts it

"The way of Jesus cannot be imposed or mapped – it requires an active participation in following Jesus as he leads us through sometimes strange and unfamiliar territory, in circumstances that become clear only in the hesitations and questionings, in the pauses and reflections where we engage in prayerful conversation with one another and with him."

■ WEEK 1

Space walk

This session uses the story of the two disciples meeting the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-34) to help unpack the stages of the faith journey and reflect on how they relate to the Spaces model and the group members.

■ WEEK 2

Space to engage

This session uses the story of Jesus calling his first disciples (Matthew 4:18-32) to help the group recognise that a willingness to engage with Jesus, even when we may be uncertain where that may take us, is an important step on our faith journey.

■ WEEK 3

Space to explore

This session uses the description of the difference between how Jesus taught the crowds and the disciples - his 'inner circle' (Mark 4:33-34) to help encourage young people to explore the Bible at a deeper level. It also challenges them to go deeper in their personal relationships.

■ WEEK 4

Space to encounter

No one can have a relationship with God without a relationship with Jesus (John 3:16). This session aims to help young people reflect on the different ways in which we can encounter Jesus and develop our own personal relationship with Him.

■ WEEK 5

Space to expand

In this session we consider the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and the responsibility the disciples of Jesus have to make other disciples and expand His Kingdom. We particularly focus on what it means to be a disciple.

■ WEEK 6

Space for grace

In this session we use the story of Jesus restoring Peter (John 21:15-19) to consider that, whilst the journey of discipleship has ups and downs, with Jesus' help, and through God's grace, we can confidently move forward into everything He has planned for us.

Space Walk

Session Aims

This session uses the story of the two disciples meeting the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-34) to help unpack the stages of the Spaces faith journey and reflect on how they relate to the Spaces model.



Notes for facilitators

The Road to Emmaus may seem a slightly odd place to start our Spaces journey. A bit like starting a story at the end rather than the beginning. But since before creation, everything had been leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. So, to misappropriate a famous quote by Winston Churchill, “...this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is perhaps the end of the beginning.”

Whether you know at this stage where each of your young people is on their faith journey, the road to Emmaus is a good place to start because it encapsulates many of the key aspects of the Spaces model. We see two disciples **engaged** in discussion about what has happened in Jerusalem and then we see the risen Jesus walking alongside them **engaging** with them in conversation. We then read about an **exploration** of what happened in Jerusalem - first from the disciple's and then from Jesus' perspective. We then see Jesus joining the disciples in a space where they shared food together. Jesus breaks the bread and, even though he has been with them for some time, they encounter Jesus as their risen Lord for the first time. They then have a burning desire to share what they have experienced and in doing so, whether they realise it or not, begin the process of expanding the Kingdom.



Get ready

➤ See [How to best plan your sessions](#)

Bring together everything you need for 'Spaces Subway.' (If you will be providing food as part of your Spaces meetings this can be the offering for this week). Try and provide as much variety as you can within your budget (different types of bread, fillings, sauces, 'weird' ingredients etc.) Make sure you are aware of any allergies or intolerances within the group.

Bibles, A4 paper and pens, envelopes, means to play song or video. You may also want to provide a sample timeline showing either your journey or an example journey just to help explain what you are asking the group to do in the Encounter session.



As you prepare the session, pray that God will meet your young people and facilitators through this session, wherever they are on their faith journey.



Engage



Icebreaker: Spaces Subway

➤ See [Icebreakers](#)

Invite everyone to make a 'Subway' using the ingredients that most appeal to them. Once everyone has finished constructing their 'Subway' ask everyone to introduce their creation to the group making up a fancy name for it eg. 'The mega-saucy bacon and tomato torpedo.'

Space Subway may be sufficient as an Icebreaker but if time allows select an additional activity from the Resource Bank.



Check In

➤ See [Check-in conversations](#)

As you eat your 'Subways' invite group members to reflect on what they included and rejected whilst constructing their 'Subway.' Thinking about the last week, invite them to share something they were happy was included in their week and/or something they would have preferred not to have included in their week.



Explore

Facilitator's introduction

➤ See [Rules of Engagement](#)

Introduce the series by explaining that Spaces meetings are structured around a model that looks at the way in which we grow in faith as a journey. Like many journeys it will have its ups and downs, potential wrong turns and points at which you may get stuck – but like any journey it's important to start with the destination in mind. The destination of the Spaces journey is to help us all become more like Jesus so we can help others to do the same.

Q1 **What's the worst journey you've been on? What difficulties did you face? Was the journey worth it?**



Given the expansiveness of the Bible, contextualising the passage or verse you are going to be studying is always helpful. It's basically saying, 'you are here!' and it helps everyone to orientate themselves.

Explain that today's Bible story starts with two people on a journey. It takes place soon after the death and resurrection of Jesus (the Easter story). Jesus's followers, many of whom believed him to be Messiah (the one who would save them from their sins and restore their relationship with God) were left distraught and disappointed by his brutal execution and then confused by the disappearance of his body and the reports that he still might be alive. In this story, which takes place later in the day on Easter Sunday (the day Jesus rose from the dead), two of his followers are discussing these events. One of the followers is named as Cleopas, the other is unnamed. There is some speculation that the second person may have been Cleopas' wife so, whilst you sometimes may hear the followers in this story referred to as two men, there is no evidence for this. We are looking at this story because it contains the four elements of the Spaces journey – engage, explore, encounter and expand - that we will be unpacking over the next few weeks.

☰ **Read Luke 24:13-34**

The first stage of the Spaces faith journey is 'engage.' The definition of engage is to 'become involved, or have contact, with someone or something.' In the context of Spaces that someone is Jesus.

Q2 Where do we see 'engage' represented in this story?

Conversation, discussion, spending time together. Our Spaces groups are places where we can spend time together discussing life and faith.

The second stage of the Spaces faith journey is 'explore.' The definition of explore is 'to think about, talk about, or study something, or to experience it, in order to find out more about it.' In our Spaces group we explore the Christian faith using the Bible (God's word) as our guide.



Don't forget the answers we provide (shown in italics) are only suggestions to help facilitators. Your group may come up with more/better suggestions!

Q3 Where do we see 'explore' represented in this story?

Again, through conversation and discussion, but also through Jesus' sharing on scripture. In our Spaces group we explore the Christian faith using the Bible as our guide.

The third stage of the Spaces faith journey is 'encounter.' The definition of encounter is 'to meet someone or to experience something.'

Q4 Where do we see 'encounter' represented in this story?

The disciples met Jesus. In our Spaces groups we can encounter Jesus, recognise Him for who He is, and form a personal relationship with him.

The fourth stage of the Spaces faith journey is 'expand.' The definition of expand is 'to increase in size, number or importance or to make something increase in this way.'

Q5 Where do we see 'expand' represented in this story?

The disciples returning to Jerusalem and sharing the good news about Jesus with others. In our Spaces group we are encouraged to share our faith and make a difference in the world.

Q6 Why do you think that the disciples didn't recognise Jesus?

Have you ever failed to recognise someone you know well by meeting them in a completely different context than normal? That might have been what was happening here, but more likely that God prevented them from recognising Jesus. This may have been to test their faith or to demonstrate how it can be easy to know a lot of facts about Jesus but not recognise him for who he truly is.

Q7 What do you think can stop us from seeing Jesus as for who he truly is?

Not knowing enough about him, doubt, uncertainty, nervousness, lack of focus etc.



If your young people are new to the Spaces format, they may find these questions challenging. Sharing your own responses to these questions can encourage openness and reinforce the message that you are journeying together.

Q8 What's the biggest challenge that you are experiencing at present on your faith journey?



It may take time for your group to be comfortable in authentically answer questions like this. Be encouraging and sensitive but don't shy away from asking them, as engaging with the harder questions is more likely to result in personal reflection and growth.



Encounter

➤ See [Encountering God in your session](#)

▶▶ Give out paper and pens. With the paper in a landscape position, ask group members to write their date of birth half-way down the left-hand side of the paper and on the opposite side of the paper today's date. Ask them to draw a line between the two dates. Ask them to reflect on their life to date and write or draw in any milestones they can identify roughly where they appear on the timeline – these might be starting a new school, moving house, loss of a loved one or other significant events.

■ After a few minutes, invite individuals to share their timeline with the rest of the group.

▶▶ Ask the group members to draw a continuous second line starting on their birth date and finishing on today's date. This line represents how close or distant that they felt to God during their journey to date. The higher the line is on the paper the closer they felt to God, the lower the more distant they felt from God.

■ After a few minutes, invite individuals to share their timeline with the rest of the group.

- ▶▶ Give everyone an envelope and ask them to place their 'journey' sheet into it, seal it and write their name on the front. Explain that you will keep these safe and unopened until the final session in this series when you will return them to them for a time of reflection.

Worship

➔ **See Worship**

Watch or listen to the song 'The Journey' by ICF Worship Together. As they do this invite the young people to reflect on any words or phrases in the song that stand out to them in relation to their faith journey.

➔ **See videos on Youtube: Live version or Lyrics version**

Prayer

➔ **See Prayer**

Close in prayer.

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Expand

➔ **See Expand**

In this week's Expand notes group members are:

- encouraged to revisit the scripture and reflect on what it may be saying to them
- invited to spend time listening/watching the worship song
- challenged to help others 'see' Jesus through their actions

↓ **Download Expand notes**

What's next?

➔ **See Week 2: Space to engage**

In this session we'll explore the story of Jesus calling his first disciples (Matthew 4:18-32) to help the group recognise that a willingness to engage with Jesus, even when we may be uncertain, is an important step on our faith journey.

spaceshub.org/dashboard



Expand



Reflect

Scan the QR code to revisit the scripture from this week: Luke 24:13-34



What are the things that surprise you in this story?

What might this tell us about our own faith journey?



Pray

The disciples were confused about what had happened to Jesus. Is there anything you are confused about? Pray and ask God to help make things clear.



Worship

Scan the QR code to watch/Listen to 'The Journey' by ICF Worship



Challenge

This week, think about how you might help others 'see' Jesus. Look out for someone to be kind to this week and help them 'see' Jesus through your actions.



Scan the QR code to view these notes online.

spaceshub.org/space-walk-explore.pdf