

Meeting the Risen Christ

Read – **John 20:1-18**

Consider how Mary felt and discuss –

- (i) times when you have failed to recognise someone because they were not in a place you would expect to see them.
- (ii) times when you have been feeling low and something out of the blue has made you happy.

Mary went to the tomb with certain expectations. She could not have imagined meeting with the Risen Christ.

Read the following examples of meeting God and consider:

- (i) What was each person doing before meeting God?
- (ii) What were their expectations before the religious experience?
- (iii) How long did it take them to realise what was happening?
- (iv) What was their immediate response?
- (v) What was the consequence of meeting God?

Gen 28: 10-17;

Exodus 3:1-10;

1 Sam 3: 1-11 &19-20;

1 Kings 19:3-13;

Luke 24:13-35;

Acts 9:1-9;

Acts 10: 1-8 & 30-35

Have you had a religious experience? Don't only consider a blinding light but also the small voice.

Should we all expect religious experiences?

Discuss times when you have felt close to Jesus. What were the circumstances?

What can you do to feel close to God (Father; Son; Spirit)? Can we make ourselves more receptive to the living presence of Jesus, or do we just have to wait for the appointed time of his appearance to us?

What creates barriers to seeing/hearing God?

Have you, or do you feel called to do something special for God?

Have you (metaphorically) travelled along the Emmaus road (from despair to joy; from disillusion to understanding; from death to life;)?

If so, have you run the seven miles back to tell others (metaphorically)?