



Outward, Incarnational Focus

A Matthew 25

Mark of Congregational Vitality



Outward, Incarnational Focus

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you...?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

(Matt. 25:37-40)



Seeking Jesus

► **Outward
Incarnational Focus**
doesn't desire to invite
people into the church,
rather it invites the
church to connect to
the world.





Who are the People in Your Neighborhood?

- ▶ Outward, Incarnational Focus abhors closed communities of assimilation and exclusion.
- ▶ Instead, it invites outward exploration, awareness, and service to and with our neighbors.



Believing & Be-Living Abundance

- ▶ Outward, Incarnational Focus is not focused on *Inward Institutional Survival*.
- ▶ It wants us to focus on where the Spirit of Christ is indwelling—living and thriving beyond the walls of the church.

Keeping Curious...

- ▶ Outward Incarnational Focus is a vital mark as it seeks to connect the church and the individual with the world outside itself.
- ▶ In holy seeking, it wonders what Christ is out there doing in the world and asks, “Where can I come alongside?”



*Jesus Is Not
Hard To Find,
Seek Him, And
He Will Find
You*

Living a Spiritual Truth

A Christmas
to Remember

vevo





Incarnational

Maintain Eye Contact

The Exercise:

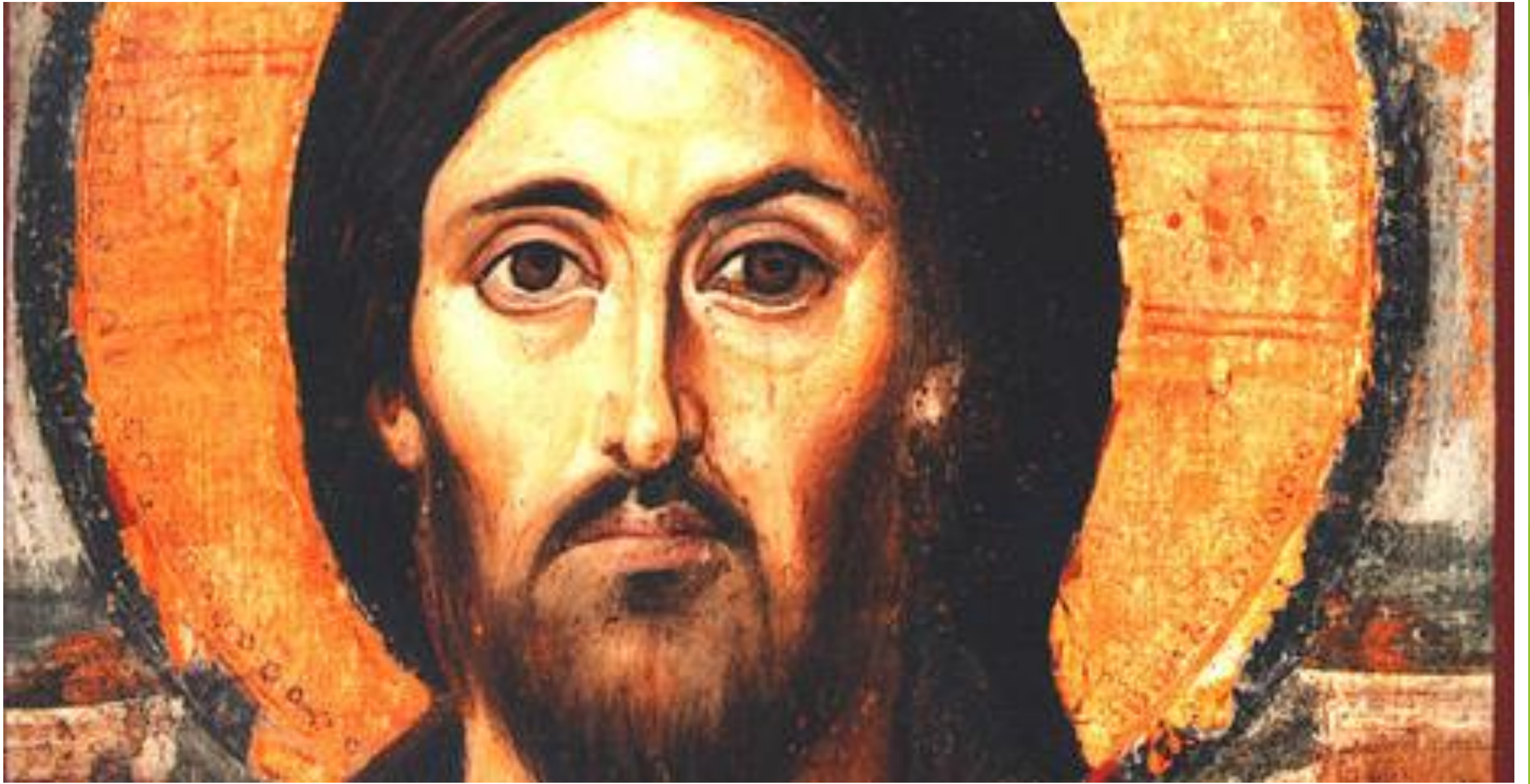
Pair off with someone you don't know well.

Sit across them, maintaining eye contact for ONE FULL MINUTE

No talking.

If you break eye contact, come right back as soon as possible.





Debrief

How did that feel?



Questions

- ▶ If you turned that gaze on your neighborhood, what would you see?
- ▶ What would they see if your neighbors turned their gaze to you?
- ▶ Where can you and your neighbors turn your gaze together?



Seeing Jesus



“Be Opened” *Effatha*

- ▶ Beyond relationship with those who are “like us,” Outward Incarnational Focus opens all to relationships where the incarnate Christ dwells, especially in the lowly & least, the stranger & the suffering, the marginalized & minority.



Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks out his compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

— *Saint Teresa of Avila* —

AZ QUOTES

Happening Now... in a Presbytery Near YOU!

- ▶ Unchurched Café in Sterling
- ▶ Immigrant Partnership in Elgin
- ▶ Where else have we taken a walk with Jesus?

