

# Born Among Us

I grew up going to church and I've got to admit: I usually thought Jesus was pretty boring. Sure, I heard about him all the time, I knew he was good, and I knew He did miracles. Yet, I always pictured him as a serene figure wearing a white robe and blue sash floating around the countryside blessing people. There wasn't really anything *wrong* with this Jesus as such. It's just that I was missing a whole lot of who he really was. I didn't realize that he sometimes angered people, that he said hard things at hard times, that he seemed to love to rock the boat. When I got older and began to read more and more of the stories of Jesus, I got excited about Jesus in a new way. This guy was actually pretty awesome! *This* was a guy I could get excited about!

I believe teenagers need to get excited about Jesus too. I believe they need to see Jesus as more than a boring guy in a white robe and blue sash. I think when teens (and everyone for that matter) see Jesus for all that he really is, that it can create a whole new excitement in their faith. The following series aims to do that for our teens: to introduce them to a Jesus who was radical, exciting, and relevant. To do this, each lesson will bring to focus one biblical encounter between Jesus and his contemporaries. Through these Jesus encounters, we hope that students will get a sense of what Jesus was really like, and that they will grow even more excited to follow him.

Over the course of six lessons, students will meet the following people: Peter, the disciple who fell at Jesus' feet ashamed by his sin; a paralytic man, who was the centre of a scandal when Jesus healed his body and his soul; the Pharisees, who were enraged when Jesus broke their traditions and customs; a man and woman of faith, who each experienced Jesus' healing despite doubt and fear; a rich young ruler and a passionate woman, who each learned different things about what it meant to give Jesus everything; and finally, the dead, who were given life again by Jesus' touch.

All in all, this series aims to fulfill the words of the old hymn: "Tell me the stories of Jesus / Write on my heart every word." The power of Jesus' stories truly never changes.