

Seeing Jesus

An exercise from Neil MacQueen, www.sundaysoftware.com

How do people come to “see” and believe in Jesus? How can we help others “see” Jesus? The story of the disciples meeting the resurrected Jesus on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24) helps us think about those questions. And the experience of helping others “see” the image of Jesus in a shadowy photo of snow, helps us understand our role in helping others believe.

Back in the 1960’s and 1970’s, an exercise appeared in some youth ministry materials using a photo titled “Jesus in the Snow.” During the making of our Jesus in Space CD (www.sundaysoftware.com/site/jesus), we decided to bring it back. With the permission of the photographer’s daughter, we created an interactive and narrated simulation of how the photo was often presented in youth groups during that era. The exercise leads students through a series of deliberate steps –helping them see Jesus’ image in the photograph. The act of those trying to help, and the comments of those trying to see will raise all sorts of great talking points. If you need more guidance, get our Jesus in Space CD and go to the Jesus in the Snow reflection exercise.



The story behind the photo as told to Sunday Software:

There have been some fanciful versions of the story behind the photo. We spoke to the photographer’s daughter while securing permission to use the photo in our software. One winter, many years ago in Bear Lake California, her father was taking photos of melting snow that had black earth showing through. When he developed his film, he was amazed to see the face of Christ staring back at him, full of tenderness and love. But when he showed it to others, the face of Jesus was not readily apparent to them. Some were able to see Jesus, others need help. Some need time. Some needed to see him in a certain way, such as held up to the light or backwards, and others saw him no matter which way they held the photo. The photo hung in his family’s home as a reminder.

To see a “key” of the photo clearly showing Jesus, go to www.sundaysoftware.com/site/jesus-in-the-snow-key/

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