

We often read in the New testament of Jesus showing up in unexpected places.

He appeared in the disciples' place of work, and they didn't recognise him. He helped them with their work, and they responded a little like Jacob back in Genesis 28: "Surely the LORD was in this place, and I was not aware of it."

Picture somewhere you go in your week. Somewhere you least expect to meet Jesus. It could be at work, at school, or on your commute. It could be with a particular person, or at a shop, pub or community centre you go to. It could be on a specific street, or it could even be in your home.

Choose one place, and picture it as vividly as you can. Are you sitting, standing or walking? What does it look like around you? What details can you see? What can you hear? What can you smell? Is there anyone else there? How do you feel about being in that place?

Now imagine Jesus comes into that situation. What do you think Jesus would do - would he sit down, walk with you, how would he be present in that space? What do you think Jesus would say? How does Jesus' presence change how you feel about that situation?

Jesus, as we bring this reflection to a close, we thank you that you have promised to be with us in every situation. You said you will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to recognise you with us during our week, and draw strength from your presence. Amen.