

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“Jesus & the Desperate” Mark 5:21-43

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MAIN IDEA

Moments of crisis and desperation reveal our true values and where we really have placed our beliefs. Jairus was an important man who was willing to forgo social stature if it meant saving his daughter's life. The woman who had been hemorrhaging for twelve years was willing to overcome her social shame to find healing. Both exercised faith in Jesus because they believed that Christ was sovereign over any human dilemma and His love took priority over law or code. Usually we tend to become very pragmatic when crisis threatens. It's in these moments that the integrity of one's beliefs is revealed.

Where do you turn when desperate? How well does the spiritual integrate when the physical breaks down? Is Jesus really always the answer to every situation of desperation? Hopefully these stories help build our trust in Jesus and encourage us to bring faith into every life situation.

SCRIPTURAL INSIGHT

There are two greek words that are used interchangeably between Jairus' twelve year old daughter and the woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years. When Jairus approached Jesus, he pleaded for his *daughter*, θυγάτριον (thygatrion), a term that connotes endearment and relationship. But when Jesus addressed the family he used generic terms for *child*, παιδίον (paidion) and addressed her as little *girl*, κοράσιον (korasion). Jesus surprisingly reserves the more personal term for the woman who had been socially shunned for twelve years. Afraid, she comes up behind him to touch his garments. Jesus heals her, and as part of her public restoration says, “*Daughter* (θυγάτριον), your faith has made you well. Go in peace (shalom), and be healed of your affliction.”

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together Mark 5:21-43. Observe how Jesus' miracles went against cultural norms. Meditate and share how His ministry to our desperate moments might goes against our social norms too.

KEY VERSES

Mark 5:35-36 *While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.”*

DISCUSSIONS ABOUT GOD & THEOLOGY...

- Think of a time when you felt desperate. *How did you feel about Jesus during this time?*
- *When do you find it difficult to go to God in sorrow, in need? When do you find it comes naturally*
- *Which of these two stories from Mark helped you relate to Jesus the most? Why?*

DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH...

- These healings involved people releasing their faith to Jesus. Faith does not produce the healing, nor is it a prerequisite, but it allows the person to participate in what God is doing. *What does the partnership between you and God look like in the routine verses when a crisis hits?*
- *What can believers do to grow in their faith? How can we help each other?*

DISCUSSIONS ABOUT BUILDING COMMUNITY...

- The stories from Scripture, church history, and friends encourage us in our own trials. God's promises can become more real when we hear them through someone's life. *When has God used an account in Scripture or an account from church history to encourage and bolster your faith? Share with the group.*

PRAYER & TESTIMONY & PRACTICE

Sometimes, when we respond to people in pain, we used well-intentioned encouragement like, "God's got this!" or "You're going to be fine." While these things may be true, sometimes they circumvent grief and don't allow the person to fully feel their pain. A person who is struggling can end up feeling more alone, like no one will understand, and they need to just pull it together.

God can handle the full extent of our sadness, of our hurt, even our anger. Keeping this in mind, spend time sharing with each other areas of need. When someone is sharing, see if you can simply listen without thinking of ways to solve their problem. Then, as a group, ask what they need, even in this moment, and if they would like to be prayed for. Then, have one person pray, remembering that the need to solve the problem does not rest on us.

RESOURCES

Stories from church history continue the legacy of God ministering to His saints during times of desperation. Here are some great titles that chronicle God's work in us.

- *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions.* Ruth A. Tucker. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

https://www.amazon.com/Jerusalem-Irian-Jaya-Biographical-Christian/dp/0310239370/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1543772060&sr=8-1&keywords=from+jerusalem+to+irian+jaya

- *The Christian History Devotional: 365 Readings and Prayers to Deepen and Inspire Your Faith.* J. Stephen Lang. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2012.

https://www.amazon.com/Christian-History-Devotional-Readings-Prayers/dp/140020433X/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1543772091&sr=8-2&keywords=Devotional+church+history

- *5 Minutes in Church History with Stephen Nichols*

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/5-minutes-in-church-history-with-stephen-nichols/id684370851?mt=2>

