



## Week Two

### Opening Prayer

God, thank you for meeting us here. Please help us to hear what you have for us; help us to encounter you today in meaningful ways. Amen.

### Talk It Over

This week we heard from Scott Williams; he is our second guest speaker for this series. Throughout this series, guest speakers will be joining us to teach an important Biblical truth. Scott spoke to us today about some specific ways we can intentionally connect with God.

- In your own words, how would you define trust?
- What sorts of good things come from a relationship marked by deep trust?

**A Special Note:** In a moment we will be reading a larger passage of the Bible than we normally do in group. Consider dividing the reading up amongst a few people or have one person who's comfortable read the whole story. Consider having everyone pull the specified verses and translation up on their phone or in a Bible to make it easier for everyone to follow along. As you read the story, pay attention to the two stories of faith taking place — the woman who is bleeding and Jairus. As we move through the rest of the Discussion Guide, we will reread smaller sections of the story again.

### Read Luke 8:40-55 (NIV)

#### 1. This story encourages us to connect to the power of Jesus.

#### Reread Luke 8:40-44

Both the woman who was bleeding and Jairus understood they needed Jesus. They both did their part to connect with the power of Jesus personally.

- In what ways do you feel you do well at connecting with the power of Jesus and in what ways would you like to grow at connecting with the power of Jesus?

One of the beautiful things about Jesus is he connects with people no matter their status, condition, or label. In this specific story, we don't ever hear about the name of the woman who is bleeding. She is known and defined in this story by her condition. Based on historical cultural realities, her condition was likely a major part of what defined her and limited her.

- Labels can be painful and limiting or they can be life-giving and empowering.
  - What are some life-giving and empowering labels that have been placed on you? In addition, how have you see those positive labels play out in your life?
  - What are some labels you have been given that have hurt or limited you? In addition, how have you see those negative labels play out in your life?
  - How might we learn to combat the negative labels placed on us?

*(Content continued on the next page.)*

## **2. This story encourages us to submit to the authority of Jesus.**

### **Reread Luke 8:45**

Following Jesus and connecting to him comes with embracing who Jesus is to some degree. Both the woman who was bleeding and Jairus saw and respected the authority that Jesus had. There was reverence and awe in their pursuit of Jesus.

- Submission and authority are loaded words. Unhealthy, dysfunctional submission and authority is very different than healthy, life-giving submission and authority. Discuss what healthy versus unhealthy submission and authority look like.
- Looking at your life as a whole, how would you describe your overall disposition with words like “submission” and “authority”? Why do you think those words land with you the way they do?
- With the Luke 8 story in mind and with the idea of healthy submission and healthy authority in mind, in your own words what do you think it means to submit to the authority of Jesus?

## **3. This story encourages us to trust in the completeness of Jesus.**

### **Reread Luke 8:48-55**

Both the women in this story and Jairus trusted Jesus would take care of their issues somehow, somehow. They trusted Jesus would care so much he'd actually do something. They trusted Jesus would show up and bring some sort of good.

- Is there a situation going on in your life right now that you desire to believe God can bring good and beauty out of it somehow, somehow? Tell us about your desire.
- In what ways do you want to trust more in the power, authority, or completeness of Jesus?
- What do you think more confidence in the power, authority or completeness of Jesus could bring to your life?

### **Closing Prayer**

God, you know us — you know where we have been, where we are, where we are headed, and where we'd like to go. Help us to live out a life connected to your power, submitted to you in healthy ways, and confident of your completeness. We are open to you, God. Amen.

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### **How To Use this Discussion Guide**

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group connect in friendship and grow faith.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith for your specific group.

Spend some time praying about your group, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance regarding your specific group.