



"DESPERATE FAITH"

SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:

LUKE 8:40-56

Earlier in Luke chapter eight, Jesus' closest disciples ask, "Who is this...?" (v25). They had heard his singular teaching and seen his miraculous power. They had observed an ever-growing crowd that followed their rabbi, and yet he continued to baffle the 12. Jesus welcomed their questions and responded with one of his own, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" This prompted Peter's famous confession of faith at Caesarea Philippi, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" (Matt. 16:16).

Mid way through this journey of discovery, Jesus and his disciples meet two people: a diseased woman and Jairus, a synagogue leader. Neither of them are asking or answering the kinds of questions that occupy Jesus' disciples. Their faith is born of desperation. They need Jesus' touch.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. How do you typically celebrate New Year's Eve?
How about this year?
2. What hopes (or fears) are you bringing into this brand new year?
3. How have you seen God at work in your life recently,
like during the past week?
4. What impacted you from the previous sermon, and in what way??

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Upon his return, who was eagerly awaiting Jesus?
2. What was the reason the synagogue leader, Jairus, sought Jesus?
3. What was his demeanor and what did he do?
4. What does the text say about the crowd that surrounded Jesus?
5. What did the woman suffer from? What had she tried to get healed?
6. How was Jesus aware of the woman's touch?
7. What was Jesus' response to the newly healed woman?
8. Meanwhile, what news came from the home of Jairus?
How did Jesus respond to the news?
9. What did Jesus do for the daughter of Jairus?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Do you think Jairus came to Jesus as a last resort? Why or why not?
2. What did the suffering woman risk, in moving within the crowd?
In reaching out to Jesus?
3. How was the suffering woman's touch different from others
in the smothering crowd?
4. What had this woman suffered: physically, relationally, emotionally,
spiritually, or even economically?
5. On how many levels did Jesus restore this woman?
6. Why might Jesus have wanted only Peter, John, James to witness
the raising of Jairus' daughter?

CONTINUED:

7. Why might Jesus have limited the other spectators to the parents?
8. Given Jesus' command, how might the parents handle the inevitable questions from others?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. When, if ever, have you been overwhelmed by the power and presence of Jesus?
2. Have you ever regarded God/Jesus with fear like some in the stories from Luke 8? If so, why?
3. Has Jesus delivered you from anything specific? If so, would you be comfortable sharing?
4. How have you, like Jairus or the woman, found your own resources to be inadequate for the challenges and heartaches of life?
5. Have you ever felt isolation, similar to the woman who suffered from ongoing bleeding and ritual uncleanness?
6. What creates separation between you and God? Between you and others?
7. What reassurance of God's love and acceptance do you receive from Jesus' words and actions?
8. What present difficulty will you present to Jesus, confident that he is actually for you?
9. How were you challenged by Jesus' handling of the woman's interruption and the delay it caused?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Reflect on who Jesus is and what He has already done for you. Perhaps journal on that or write him a letter expressing your gratitude and any other feelings you might have.
1. Pour out your challenges and unresolved questions to Jesus, talking with him in prayer specifically and candidly about them.
1. Take a moment, or moments this week to consciously rest in the welcome of Jesus, His love and acceptance of you.