

POWER OF HEALING

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 8:41-56

CONTEXT

Jesus and His disciples sailed across the Sea of Galilee to the predominantly Gentile region of the Gerasenes. After Jesus cast demons from a man into a herd of pigs, the people there asked Him to leave. Jesus and the disciples then returned to the Galilean side of the lake, where a crowd awaited His return. The crushing crowd's needs and expectations heightened the urgency of the moment as two people captured Jesus's attention. One was a respected leader of the local synagogue and the other was a woman who was ceremonially unclean—yet their stories intersected when they met Jesus.

KEY CONCEPT

Faith assures us that Jesus, as God, has the power to heal and resurrect.

As you examine Luke 8:41-56:

- Notice that the woman had faith that she would be healed just by touching Jesus's clothes.
- Contemplate that even in times of hopelessness, hope prevails through Christ.



TIMELINE

Jesus Teaches and Explains the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15)

Jesus Calms a Storm (Luke 8:22-25)

SESSION STUDY:
Jesus Heals Two Daughters (Luke 8:40-56)

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (Luke 9:10-17)

Jesus Walks on Water (Mark 6:45-52)

Daily Readings

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Day 1: Luke 8:40-48 | ☐ Day 4: Mark 5:35-43 |
| ☐ Day 2: Luke 8:49-56 | ☐ Day 5: Mark 6:1-13 |
| ☐ Day 3: Mark 5:21-34 | ☐ Day 6: Psalm 4 |



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

FAITH ASSURES US THAT JESUS CAN HEAL (LUKE 8:41-48).

Underline words or phrases that highlight the desperation of both Jairus and the woman.

41 Just then, a man named Jairus came. He was a leader of the synagogue. He fell down at Jesus's feet and pleaded with him to come to his house, **42** because he had an only daughter about twelve years old, and she was dying. While he was going, the crowds were nearly crushing him. **43** A woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years, who had spent all she had on doctors and yet could not be healed by any, **44** approached from behind and touched the end of his robe. Instantly her bleeding stopped. **45** "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds are hemming you in and pressing against you." **46** "Someone did touch me," said Jesus. "I know that power has gone out from me." **47** When the woman saw that she was discovered, she came trembling and fell down before him. In the presence of all the people, she declared the reason she had touched him and how she was instantly healed. **48** "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

The news of Jesus's power to heal and teach had spread throughout the region. Imagine the constant demands placed on Jesus, who could heal people with a touch or a word. For example, a leader of the nearby synagogue came and fell at Jesus's feet, pleading for Jesus to go with him and save his dying daughter. Could anything be more urgent?

Yet as Jesus was on the way to his house, another desperate soul availed herself of the crowd pressing against Jesus to sneak in and touch the edge of His robe. This woman's chronic medical condition undoubtedly had left her weak, hopeless, ceremonially unclean, and unable to worship at the temple (Lev. 15:25-31). Her hope reawakened, however, when Jesus passed by, so she reached out in faith that just one touch would heal her.

LEADER NOTE: The woman's actions revealed a mixture of faith and fear. She clearly preferred to remain hidden, approaching Jesus from behind and only touching the edge of His garment. When Jesus first asked who touched Him, she stayed quiet. Her chronic bleeding rendered her perpetually unclean, a status that cut her off from Jewish society and worship and from direct contact with others. When we further consider her physical fatigue and financial destitution (Luke 8:43), we see a woman in the shadows. Rather than giving in to her fears and hopelessness, she chose to act in faith that Jesus could heal her, even if He did so indirectly.

How have you experienced hope in Christ in the midst of a hopeless situation?

Notes

The woman's faith was immediately rewarded with complete healing. The flow of Jesus's divine power stemmed the flow of blood in her body. Despite the urgency of other needs, Jesus was not content to let this faith encounter end there. So, He asked, "Who touched me?" and waited for a response (vv. 45-46).

Trembling, the woman approached Jesus, in awe of His power and fearful of being exposed. Would the good Teacher be angry that an unclean woman had touched Him? Jesus did not wish to reproach her, though, but to reward her faith with the gift of personal relationship. The brief conversation that followed revealed to her that Jesus was more than her Healer—He was her Savior. It also made public both her confession of faith (Rom. 10:9-10) and Jesus's inclusion of this once-outcast woman as a daughter of the kingdom.

LEADER NOTE: Jesus was careful to explain that it was the woman's faith in Him that made her well, not simply touching His clothes. What did Jesus mean that "power [had] gone out" of Him (Luke 8:46)? God the Father anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and divine power to heal (Acts 10:38). Also, Jesus gave His disciples the authority and power to heal diseases (Luke 9:1). This means that divine power flows from the Father through the Spirit and the Son. Crowds flocked to Jesus to receive healing from His power. That healing was available to those who had faith in God and His Son (Luke 6:19; 7:50; 8:48). Jesus stopped everything, even His urgent procession to Jairus's house to heal his dying daughter, to acknowledge this woman's faith.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

FAITH: Biblical faith is the resting, or trusting, in Christ alone for salvation (John 3:16-21). More than being simply a mental agreement of historical facts, genuine faith begins with a recognition and confession of the truth of the gospel (1 John 4:13-16), followed by a receiving of Christ as Lord and Savior of one's life (John 1:10-13). Biblical faith is not blind faith, for it rests on the historical life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

What things keep you from confessing publicly what Christ has done for you?

FAITH ASSURES US THAT JESUS CAN RESURRECT (LUKE 8:49-56).

Underline the words and actions of the mourners, and circle Jesus's words and actions in comparison.

49 While he was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house and said, "Your daughter is dead. Don't bother the teacher anymore."

50 When Jesus heard it, he answered him, "Don't be afraid. Only believe, and she will be saved." **51** After he came to the house, he let no one enter with him except Peter, John, James, and the child's father and mother.

52 Everyone was crying and mourning for her. But he said, "Stop crying, because she is not dead but asleep." **53** They laughed at him, because they knew she was dead. **54** So he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" **55** Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he gave orders that she be given something to eat. **56** Her parents were astounded, but he instructed them to tell no one what had happened.

A woman suffering from a disease for twelve years received new life at the same time we hear that a girl, only twelve years old, died of a disease. At first, it seems that Jesus's conversation with the woman, rewarding her faith, delayed Him from reaching the girl in time. News of this tragedy threatened to overshadow the joy of the woman's recent healing and Jairus's own faith.

Jairus's servant who brought the devastating news suggested, "Don't bother the teacher anymore" (v. 49). What could Jesus possibly do now? But Jesus encouraged Jairus to choose faith over fear. Jesus's divine power can reverse sin's curse on all aspects of our broken world—death included. Just as He had saved one "daughter" from disease (v. 48), so Jesus promised to save another daughter from death.

LEADER NOTE: More connected these two stories than the fact that they occurred near one another in space and time. The daughter was twelve years old, while the woman had been sick for twelve years. Touch was key in both stories, with the woman touching Jesus's robe and then Jesus taking the dead girl's hand to bring her back to life. Jesus emphasized faith in both stories, and the Greek word for "saved," or "made well," was used in both. Finally, Jesus referred to the woman as "daughter" right before He resurrected Jairus's daughter. These details show us that every touch, every healing, was sovereignly planned by a gracious God.

How should we re-evaluate our understanding of urgency and interruptions in light of these two accounts?

By the time Jesus and Jairus arrived at the house, mourners had begun their weeping in earnest. Shockingly, Jesus told the crowd there was no need to mourn, but being very familiar with the reality of death, they mocked Him. By contrast, when Jesus told the dead girl to get up, she immediately heeded His words and got up! The mourners correctly perceived that the girl had died, but they were wrong to laugh at the One who redefined death as sleep, something that could be temporary rather than final.

Since the time when humanity first sinned in the garden of Eden, death has reigned on earth. Jesus came to reverse that curse, as the resurrection of Jairus's daughter showed. Ultimately, Jesus accomplished this victory by defeating death Himself and becoming the "firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20). Those who belong to Christ by faith also will rise at His return, never to die again (vv. 23-26).

LEADER NOTE: Jesus said the girl was not dead but sleeping because He knew her death was only temporary. The passage clearly affirms that the girl was dead. Her family and friends knew it to be true (Luke 8:53), and the author notes that her spirit, which had left her body at death, returned at her resurrection (v. 55). Jesus's words were not meant to undercut this miracle but to stress the temporary nature of death for those who put their faith in Him. Only a few witnesses were allowed to see the miracle since most would only care about the physical resurrection and not its spiritual significance.

Why is "sleep" a true and comforting metaphor for the death of a believer in Christ?

CHRIST CONNECTION

x

Jesus demonstrated His divine power by healing and resurrecting others. His power to physically heal and resurrect points to His power to spiritually heal and resurrect souls.

x



Notes

ARRIVAL

INTERACT: As a way to break the ice for your group experience, call for volunteers to share a time when they had a medical need, such as a broken bone, surgery, or wisdom teeth removal. Some may share a funny anesthesia experience or an embarrassing moment.

TRANSITION: For the most part, we have access to doctors and medical help to deal with serious medical needs. In our Bible story today, however, a woman exercised every available option and spent every cent to find relief for a problem that no one could heal. Her disease wasn't only a physical obstacle but a social and spiritual one too. Since her problem was an issue of blood, she was ceremonially unclean—unable to touch anyone or participate in temple worship until she was healed.

CONTEXT

REVIEW: Pass out copies of **Pack Item 6: Jesus's Miracles** and review with your group some of the miracles Jesus performed that showed His unique power. Say: "Over the past few weeks, we have discussed several different parables that highlighted the power of the gospel and the kingdom of God. Then the disciples witnessed Jesus's power over wind and waves. In today's Scripture passage, Jesus showed His power to heal. The two people involved couldn't have been more different. Jairus was a synagogue leader, likely well-respected and well-known in the community. The other person was the bleeding woman, considered unclean for twelve years. She was isolated, destitute, and an outcast. Yet because of their mutual faith in Jesus, they both received the healing they sought."

RECAP

SUMMARIZE: Call for a volunteer to summarize today's story based on their personal preparation for the week. Ask: "If you only had a couple of minutes to tell someone this Bible story, how would you sum it up?"

TRANSITION: The story of the bleeding woman is sandwiched in the middle of the story of Jairus's daughter. This "interruption" in Jairus's story shows that Jesus is available to all who believe, regardless of their social status.

MIRACLE	WHO?	WHERE?	WHEN?	WHY?
Jesus calms the storm	Jesus and his disciples	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power over nature
Jesus heals the blind man	Jesus and a blind man	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to heal
Jesus heals the leper	Jesus and a leper	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to heal
Jesus heals the paralytic	Jesus and a paralytic	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to heal
Jesus heals the woman with the issue of blood	Jesus and a woman with the issue of blood	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to heal
Jesus heals the daughter of Jairus	Jesus and the daughter of Jairus	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to heal
Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead	Jesus and Lazarus	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to heal
Jesus feeds the 5,000	Jesus and 5,000 people	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to feed
Jesus walks on water	Jesus and his disciples	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power over nature
Jesus turns water into wine	Jesus and his disciples	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to create
Jesus cleans the temple	Jesus and his disciples	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to cleanse
Jesus predicts the future	Jesus and his disciples	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to predict
Jesus sends out the 12 apostles	Jesus and the 12 apostles	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to send
Jesus sends out the 72 apostles	Jesus and the 72 apostles	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to send
Jesus sends out the 10 apostles	Jesus and the 10 apostles	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to send
Jesus sends out the 11 apostles	Jesus and the 11 apostles	On the Sea of Galilee	During a storm	To show his power to send
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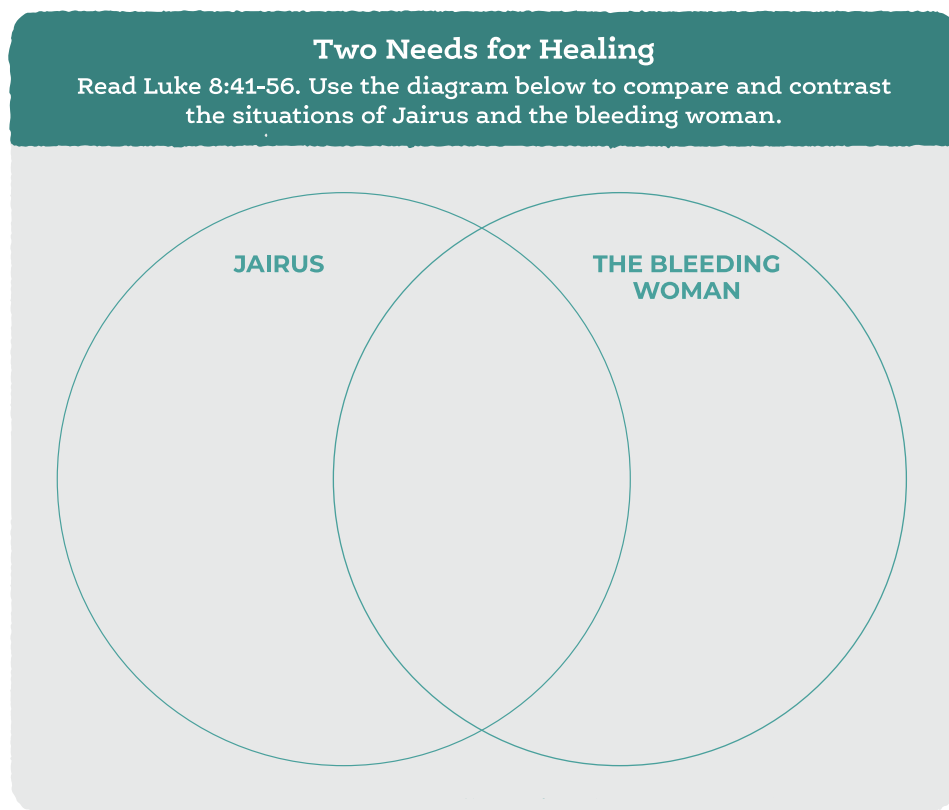
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Key Concept: Faith assures us that Jesus, as God, has the power to heal and resurrect.

GROUP ACTIVITY

DIAGRAM: Direct your group to page 46 in their Personal Study Guide (PSG), where they will find a Venn diagram titled “Two Needs for Healing.” Recreate the diagram on a board in your room so you can record the group’s findings as they interact with the Scripture text.

Notes



READ: Invite two volunteers to read aloud Luke 8:41-56. Consider asking a man to read the verses concerning Jairus (vv. 41-42, 49-56) and a woman to read the verses concerning the bleeding woman (vv. 43-48).

ENGAGE: Lead your group to work together to write on the Venn diagram on the board the similarities and differences between Jairus’s situation and that of the bleeding woman, including the relevant Scripture references. Encourage your group to record the findings in their PSGs as well. Here are a few suggestions if your group needs help getting started:

–**Jairus:** a synagogue leader (v. 41); begged Jesus to heal his twelve-year-old daughter (vv. 41-42); the urgency of his situation was interrupted by Jesus’s response to the bleeding woman (vv. 45-48); received news his daughter had died (v. 49); Jesus encouraged him to believe (v. 50)

Notes

–**The Bleeding Woman:** bled for twelve years (v. 43); spent all she had on failed treatments (v. 43); snuck up behind Jesus and touched His robe in secret (v. 44); praised for her faith by Jesus (v. 48)

–**Both:** believed only Jesus could help them (vv. 41-42,47); Jesus gave them what they sought (vv. 44,47-48,54-55)

ASK: What unified these two diverse people in their diverse situations? (*faith in Jesus*)

DEBRIEF

What should we make of Jesus's commendation of the woman's faith and His encouragement to Jairus to believe?

SUMMARIZE

Faith in Jesus is central to these two stories from Scripture because the woman's healing and the daughter's resurrection were dependent upon it. Jesus is the Great Physician, and He is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). Jesus meets all who have faith with compassion and power. He is able and willing to demonstrate His healing power in your life when you have faith in Him. Along with that faith comes trust in God's sovereign plan, because while Jesus has the power to heal all our diseases, it may be His will not to. Regardless of our circumstances and their outcomes, we can approach Jesus in faith and trust Him for whatever comes.

HEAD, HEART, HANDS

Walk the group through the Head, Heart, Hands section in the PSG (p. 47). If running short on time, specifically highlight the **Head** section in this week's study, inviting volunteers to share their responses to the question in this section.



HEAD: Every day we expose our minds to people or circumstances that either build our faith or tear it down. We need to be wary of influences that undermine our faith. We also must take advantage of opportunities to grow our faith through time with God, His Word, and His people. Jairus chose not to despair when His servant and mourners understandably discouraged him; rather, he listened to Jesus, trusted His words, and saw his daughter raised to life.

What influences in your life lead you toward doubt? What influences lead you toward faith?



HEART: The bleeding woman approached Jesus with both faith and fear. Because of her fear, she would have been content to touch Jesus's garment and be healed. But Jesus wanted more for her—to know her and be known by her. We need to be cautious that we don't come to Jesus just because

of what He can do for us. He wants to help us, but He also wants us to know Him by faith.

How do fear and faith influence your approach to Jesus for the things you need and the relationship you desire with Him?



HANDS: Imagine how hard it must have been for the girl's parents to keep quiet about what Jesus had done for their daughter! Thankfully, we do not have the same restrictions. Jesus's last words to His disciples were to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). This mission begins and continues with us telling others what Jesus has done for us personally, primarily in our salvation from sin by faith in Him.

Whom will you tell this week about what God has done for you through faith in Him?

NEXT STEPS

Challenge the group to consider these actions as responses to this week's session.

- Identify an area of your life that needs healing and restoration (relationship; physical or mental distress; etc.). Spend some time in prayer regarding your need. Your need is better in His hands than it ever will be in yours.
- Spend some time reflecting on your faith. If you struggle with faith, confess that to Jesus and ask Him to give you the faith that you need.
- Do you know someone who is struggling? Consider sending them a text, going to visit, or offering to bring a meal to help encourage their faith.

Invite volunteers to share prayer needs for this week. Encourage them to record these in the space on page 47 in their PSG so they can pray for others throughout the week.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

CLOSE: Pray through Psalm 4:1 with your group. Thank the Lord for the grace of His salvation by faith in Jesus, and let that overarching, undeserved blessing lead to humility as you approach the Father in the Spirit and fall at Jesus's feet with every other prayer request of faith.

Notes

