

Unfiltered

Scripture and Background Information for Nov. 28-Dec. 04

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

All of us are children of our time. Our history influences who we are, but also what we think of others. Experiences with people shape the way we encounter future meetings. Unfortunately, our experiences do not always lead to fair and gracious evaluations of other people. Rather, biases prevent real engagement. Interestingly, God encounters us differently. While we were enemies of God, Jesus died for us (Rom 5:8). The gospel can give us a new view of our environment, our situations, and our neighbors. For that, we look at Mk 5:22-42.

Background for Mark 5:22-42:

Mark, the friend of Peter and Paul, wrote his account of Jesus' life to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God (1:1). For that, he shows how Jesus came to establish a different Kingdom than what the Jews expected.

A synagogue official begged Jesus to heal his dying doctor. While Jesus went to Jairus' house, a woman touched Jesus secretly. By touching Jesus, she was healed from her 12 years of sickness. Jesus told the woman that her faith saved her. (*Note: Jesus is not talking about the amount of faith that the women had, but rather about the object of faith, which was Jesus. Jesus is the object and source of salvation.*) While Jesus took his time talking with the woman, Jairus' daughter died. People told Jairus not to waste his time and leave Jesus alone. Unfazed, Jesus went on, sending all the mourning people away, and he healed the girl.

Here are several insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. The woman saw in Jesus her last hope. She went to many doctors, but her condition got worse (*To understand her situation, compare Lev 15:19*). When Jesus felt the power go out of him, helping the woman. What things do Jesus "taking time" for the woman indicate for us about Jesus' heart?
2. After Jairus heard that his daughter died, the people told him to leave Jesus alone and not to bother Him anymore. What can Jesus' reaction of continuing to go tell us about Jesus' care for others?
3. What filters might you be prone to view other people from? What about Jesus' example motivates you to a life without filters?

Note: Unfortunately, the spiritual leaders often took their religion more seriously than people. In our story, Jesus violates religion twice (being touched by an "unclean" woman; and touching a dead body (Lev 15:19; Num 19:11)). While Mark tells these stories to depict Jesus' power as Son of God, he also shows Jesus' Gospel-Vision. Without premature evaluations, He puts people first.

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

December 05-11

Psalm 126