

# Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

## ENCOUNTER

### *Encountering Jesus*

Mark 5.21-43

## EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

## VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

<sup>30</sup> "Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" <sup>31</sup> And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" <sup>32</sup> He looked all around to see who had done it. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>43</sup> He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat."

**Mark 5.30-32; 40b; 43**

In these passages, the frenzy of the crowd is in sharp contrast to the solitude of Jesus' connections with the different people He encounters. *Consider each of these stories, and discuss your reactions to Jesus' ability and desire to focus on individuals in the midst of chaos. How can you relate to these scenarios? How can you improve or find behaviors to help you encounter God?*

- Jairus appears to Jesus as a desperate father, pleading with Him to save his daughter. Jesus focuses on Jairus and listens to his plea despite the crowds which have built around them.
- The woman suffering from years of bleeding touches Jesus' robe, which causes him in the frenzy of the crowd to turn around, searching for the one who touched Him.
- After Jesus heals Jairus' daughter, Jesus takes the girl's hand and focuses on her even while those around Him are laughing. He even orders them to keep quiet about the incident.

*Discuss what it means to follow a person – Jesus -- and not a dogma or a doctrine. How have you been shaped through your encounters with people, as Thomas was shaped by his encounters with Duke head basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski?*

Culture values the **appearance** of health and prosperity versus the **substance** of health and prosperity. Being shaped by our encounters with Jesus requires us to bring to Him the hard places and pain of our lives. It is in these difficult places that resurrection, new life, and transformation occur. *As we begin this new season of school and change, what are the places of pain, transition, struggle, or questions you may need to bring to Him?*

**PRAYER:** *Father, meet us in our places of transition and struggle so that we can encounter Jesus and be shaped by Him. Help us to not give in to striving for the image that the world wants to see, but to seek joy and wholeness through our relationship with You. AMEN*