

# Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

## ENCOUNTER

*Jesus Messiah*

*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>22</sup> Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." <sup>24</sup> So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. <sup>25</sup> Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup> She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."*

#### **Mark 5.22-28**

During this passage, there is much emphasis on the large crowd, and its influence on the events and characters in the story. We see the crowd, for the most part, observing and following the events which unfold. Both Jairus and the hemorrhaging woman, however, seek the power of God to change their lives through an *encounter* with Jesus, not by mere observation.

- *Discuss how Jairus and the woman both actively seek to move beyond merely observing Jesus, to seeking an encounter with Him.*
- *In last week's sermon, we discuss the labels which are attached to our lives. What labels initially define these two people, and how do their encounters with Jesus change those labels?*

Jairus and the woman show us that we are not meant to be merely observers of God, as is most of the crowd. As Thomas mentioned, we can go our whole lives dissecting and analyzing who Jesus was, and not actually seek an encounter with Him. Knowing Jesus is present within any community of believers should give us confidence that He will speak to us and join us.

- *Have you been more comfortable observing God, or seeking to encounter God?*
- *How might our fear of being changed by God through an encounter prevent us from engaging in meaningful practices that might draw us closer to Him and others?*
- *Discuss your current practices of solitude, community, and service. How might you add to or enhance these practices to be able to more fully encounter Jesus?*
- *Discuss how God might change the city of Austin through our encounters. When we find areas to serve in our city, is it with the belief and expectation that God can change lives here forever?*

This passage reminds us that we are built for relationships, and it is only through them that we find meaning and are shaped and formed.

- *How does what we learn during this scene reinforce that our faith is built around a person, not simply dogma or rules?*

**Heavenly Father**, fill us with your strength and grace to be the kind of community which encounters the living God. Help us live with expectation for the ways in which you might change us forever. **Amen.**