



Session 8

Woman who was bleeding

Intro

Last week we looked at Martha and Mary and saw how Jesus is moved by our suffering, and is more than just a man. Today, we are going to look at the story of a woman who had a long-term illness. We are going to look at a lady who had been bleeding for 12 years and see how God really loves and cares about every inch of our lives.

Part 1

Jesus had made his way across a lake and there was a crowd waiting for him. A man, a synagogue leader, wanted him to heal his daughter who was very sick, so Jesus went with him.

“A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.”

Mark 5:24-29

We know very little about this woman. But we know that she had been bleeding for a very long time. In those days, blood was seen as unclean. Their belief was that if someone was to touch something unclean, they would become unclean also. So, people would have stayed away from her. She would have been unable to go into the temple to worship. She was separated from her community and from her God.

Discussion Questions

- ▶ How do you think this woman would have felt?
- ▶ What was life like for her?
- ▶ Do you relate to anything the woman would have felt?

Craft Time



Part 2

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

³¹ “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

Mark 5:30-33

So, here is a woman who has been an outcast for 12 years. She has used all her money to find out what the problem is and has not had any answers. We understand her desperation. She is aware of how others think of her, but she steps forward anyway.

Discussion Questions

- ▶ Why so you think she stepped forward?
- ▶ Have you ever been scared to be brave?
- ▶ How do you think Jesus will respond?

Craft Time

Part 3

Let's continue with the next part of the story:

“He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Mark 5:34

The woman was healed when she touched Jesus' garment, and he says here that it was her faith that healed her. She trusted that he would heal her and reached out to him in faith.

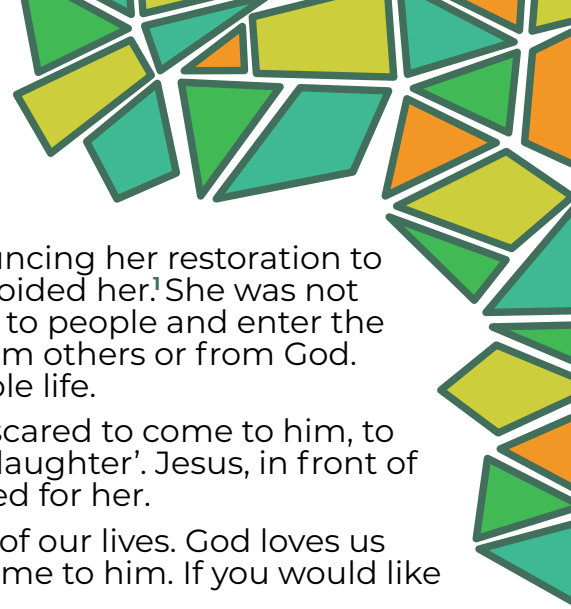
We also see Jesus sought her out of the crowd when the others didn't think it was important.

Discussion Questions

- ▶ Why do you think Jesus sought her out of the crowd?
- ▶ In what ways does this encounter with Jesus change her life?
- ▶ Has anyone showed love/care to you when have you felt unlovable? What impact did that have on you?

Craft Time

Summary



He had healed and restored her physically but, by announcing her restoration to everyone, he restored her to the community that had avoided her.¹ She was not unclean anymore. She would have been able to be close to people and enter the temple to worship God. She was no longer separated from others or from God. Jesus was not just interested in the physical but her whole life.

Jesus loved this woman when no one else did. She was scared to come to him, to reveal herself in front of everyone, but Jesus called her 'daughter'. Jesus, in front of everyone, linked himself to her closely. He loved and cared for her.

Jesus wants to restore us too. He cares about every inch of our lives. God loves us even when we, or others, don't. He is longing for us to come to him. If you would like to, please ask as many questions as you like.

Craft Time

¹ Taken from Whitman, Lauren. *A Painful Past: Healing and Moving Forward*. P&R Publishing, 2020. Pages 21-22.

