

The logo consists of two overlapping speech bubbles. The left bubble is blue and contains the word "Small" in white. The right bubble is red and contains the word "Groups" in white. Below the bubbles, the words "DISCUSSION GUIDE" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Small Groups

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Square Squad
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Sunday Jan 27, 2019

Main Idea – God has the cure for any “issue”. Common knowledge, scientific understanding, and others’ opinions will not likely solve the problem. Go to God in faith. He will heal you and then use your story for His continued glory.

The stories about Jesus

- For many years after Jesus returned to Heaven, people told the stories of all the things he had done while on earth. The things he did, the lessons he taught, and the people he touched, all remained as testimonies that God had been here in person.
- The story of the woman who was healed by simply touching his clothing was immediately told throughout the region, and still remains a powerful Bible story.
- **Mark 5:21-34 – And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, “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.” And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”**

We all have issues

- Everyone has issues, or problems, with which we continually have to deal.
- The woman in the Bible story had issues that were publically known. Who she was, and the nature of her problem, were generally known.
- She had previously tried many things to be cured.
- The Israelite religious rules of that time had likely prevented her from fully participating in worship and other social activities of the community. She may have been considered an outcast and had become ostracized.

Jesus solved the problem

- The woman stepped out of her comfort zone and touched Jesus' garment, by faith, believing this would heal her.
- Jesus also stepped out of the normal behavior of a rabbi by searching her out, and seeking to engage her.
- Jesus rehabilitated her physically and socially. He called her daughter, acknowledging that she had a special relationship with God.
- This story had great resonance in the region because – many verses and events afterward – Mark 6:56 says that numerous other people did the same thing in order to be healed. The woman's faith had a direct influence on the nature of Jesus' ministry.
- **Mark 6:56 – And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.**

Only one opinion matters

- The Bible presents the woman's story in the midst of another story: the account of how Jesus healed the daughter of a religious leader.
- **Mark 5: 35-43 – While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But 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. Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he**

strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

- The general consensus (perhaps unanimously?) was that the girl had died.
- Jesus knew differently.
- Before reviving the girl, He removed all the negative thinkers (the realists?) from around Him.
- Likewise, for each of us, the only opinion about our issues that matters is God's opinion.
- As much as is possible, we should remove ourselves from those who have harmful and negative perspectives, and should associate with those who seek God's assessment of our situation. Don't hesitate to seek God's "second opinion."
- God is not done with our lives until He takes us to Heaven.
- Our issues are not permanent. They can be solved with only a single touch by Jesus.
- To Jesus, each of us is "son" or "daughter."

Square squad

- Dr. Brene Brown wrote the book "Dare to Lead."
- In it, she suggests a technique where one can write – on a small, square card – the names of individuals whose opinion is valuable.
- This card can be looked at when one is faced with opinions of those whose credibility is questionable.
- By considering what the opinions might be of those on the Square Squad card, one can keep focused on possible valid solutions.

Reflective Questions for Square Squad

1. What things stand out to you in the story of the woman who touched Jesus' clothing? Is there something in this story that is similar to something you have experienced?
2. In the story of Jairus' daughter, why – do you suppose – Jesus removed the people who thought she was dead?
3. How can you, in ways that are practical, "surround" yourself with people who seek God's opinion?
4. Do you have a personal testimony – or a story of another's testimony – of how God worked a miracle where other solutions had failed?