



CRAZY FAITH

THE KIND OF FAITH THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS



Small Group Discussion Guide



PREPARATION

STUDY

Spend the week studying Matthew 9:18-26 and Luke 8:40-56. Consult the commentary provided and any additional study tools to enhance your preparation.

PRAY

Pray for our pastors and this week's message, the upcoming group time, your group members, and their openness to God's Word.

LANDING POINT

Crazy faith gives us hope and help to trust in God's timing.



GROUP DISCUSSION

CONFIDENTIALITY | What's said in the group stays in the group.

NO CROSS-TALK | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.

NO FIXING | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.

SHARING | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.



INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

WAITING

We spend so much of our time waiting. We wait for someone to come home after a long trip. We wait in line at the DMV. We wait for the waiter to bring our food. We count the days and wait for our wedding day. We wait for a loved one to get better. We wait for a rebellious child to turn around and turn to God.

God has a purpose for us in the waiting. He wants us to trust Him and His timing. We may not see the big picture as He does, but we can trust that He sees it and has a plan and purpose for us. He wants to give us hope and help in the here-and-now. This week your group will discuss a time when Jesus encountered two people who found hope and help in God's perfect timing.

Q: *What makes waiting so difficult for us?*



DEEPER DIVE

Select 2–3 questions to discuss as a group.

JESUS GETS INTERRUPTED

For this week's story we find Jesus with a busy ministry schedule. He's traveling from town to town, teaching and healing. Large crowds are coming to Him and following Him. One day a ruler from the synagogue comes to Jesus and interrupts His busy schedule because his daughter is dying. Let's take a look at how Jesus responds to this interruption.

Q: *Have a volunteer read Luke 8:40-56. After the story is read, split into pairs and retell the story in your own words.*

Q: How would you describe the bold faith of Jairus and the woman from the story?

Q: Recall a time when God gave you hope and help in the waiting? What did God teach you?



REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS

CRAZY FAITH TODAY

Jesus didn't just come just to get us to heaven. The Son of God came down to live among us in the suffering and waiting we all experience to some degree in this world. Jesus came to give us hope and help now. Crazy faith gives us hope and help to trust in God's timing.

There are four truths we can remember the next time we need hope and help in the waiting:

- *Jesus's timing is perfect.* Nothing surprises God. He sees and controls all, which means He understands how different events connect to one another. He has a purpose in the timing of events and circumstances, and all we can do is trust His perfect timing.
- *His touch heals.* Jesus showed compassion to the woman and Jairus. They were two people from very different backgrounds, one poor and powerless and the other rich and influential. Jesus has love and compassion for all who come to Him.
- *His Word has power.* Jesus commanded Jairus's daughter to rise and that was all it took. Jesus, the Word of God, gives life. When we allow Him to speak His Word into our lives, it transforms us.
- *His work is total.* Jesus cares for our bodies, minds and souls. He does His work to heal us from the inside out. He can and does heal physically, but the greatest miracle He does is to make hard hearts soft, to turn people away from sin and toward Himself.

Q: Think of a phrase that will remind you that God sees and controls everything in your life.

Q: Name someone in your life who needs to experience Jesus's love and compassion.



How could you be Jesus's love and compassion for them?

Q: *Jesus cares for each part of us. Where do you need Jesus's care the most right now?*

Q: *How can the group be praying for you this week?*



JESUS MAKES YOU CLEAN “This account contains two healing stories that both address issues of ritual purity. Women with a regular or irregular flow of blood were considered unclean (Lev. 15), and ‘anyone who touches them will be unclean’ (Lev. 15:27). Touching these women or touching a human corpse rendered a person unclean (Num. 19:11–13). Transcending these rules, Jesus allows the bleeding woman to touch ‘the edge of his cloak’ (Luke 8:44), and he takes the girl’s corpse ‘by the hand’ (v. 54). His mission includes reaching out to outcasts, and his presence transcends purity regulations by cleansing the defiled, and he himself is not defiled by uncleanness.”¹

MORE THAN PHYSICAL HEALING “Luke reported that Jesus sought out the woman because something greater than physical healing was taking place. Through faith the woman also received spiritual healing.”²

THE WEAVER Corrie ten Boom loved B.M. Franklin’s poem “The Weaver”³ which has helped many to trust in the Lord in the midst of suffering and waiting:

*My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me,
I cannot choose the colors,
He works so steadily,
Oft times He weaves in sorrow,
And I in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper,
And I the underside.*

*Not till the loom is silent,
And the shuttle cease to fly,
Will God unroll the canvas,
And reveal the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver’s skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.*

ENDNOTES:

1. D. A. Carson, “The Gospels and Acts,” in *NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible*, ed. D. A. Carson (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 1842.
2. Robert H. Stein, *Luke*, vol. 24, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 262.
3. Corrie ten Boom, *Tramp for the Lord: The Story that Begins Where the Hiding Place Ends* (Auckland, NZ: Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, 2011), 12.