

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ understand Jesus is worth the risk.

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 8:43-48, MARK 5:25-34

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Jesus was on his way to Jairus' house, and a great crowd (Mark 5:21) pressed in on him as he walked. Think of a concert or parade where everyone is shoulder to shoulder. Seizing her opportunity, a woman (the Bible never mentions a name) slipped through the crowd to touch Jesus. She had been sick for over a decade, and because her illness involved blood, she was considered ceremonially unclean. Also, anyone she touched became unclean. This meant people kept their distance from her, and she could not participate in worship at the temple (Lev. 15:19-31). This poor woman had physical and spiritual problems.

Check out the **Teacher Prep Video** for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/799963775>



FACILITATOR NOTE: We've giving you a lot of teaching material. Don't feel like you should cover everything here. You know your group better than anyone. Choose the material that will best fit your students and skip over the rest.

OPENING

PRAYER

Start your small group by asking the Lord to bless your discussion and time together.

OPTIONAL: Give students an opportunity to lead the prayer.

1-2 minutes

OPENING QUESTIONS

- How was the week? What's the best thing that's happened? Anything major going on?
- What is one of the biggest risks you have ever taken?

3-5 minutes



EXPLORE

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD

3-5 minutes

The woman we'll look at today had a disease that damaged her physical, social, and spiritual life. She tried to find healing in several different places but found none. Then she heard about Jesus, and her faith in him led her to take a risk that changed her life forever because *disciples of Christ understand Jesus is worth the risk.*

Read Luke 8:43 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- **In what ways can you relate to this woman?**
Possible answers—experienced severe illness, people keep their distance from you, tried to find healing outside of Christ, found relief and belonging from Jesus, willing to take risks to move closer to Jesus, scared to talk about Jesus in front of crowds, etc.
- **What are some things people your age try in order to find relief or purpose?**
Possible answers—drugs, alcohol, sports, relationships, material possessions, collecting followers, getting good grades, etc.
- **Who told you about Jesus?**
Answers will vary. Push the students to reveal as many details as they can remember about the first time they heard/understood about Jesus.



ASK INTENTIONAL
QUESTIONS

Say something like: Our world offers no shortage of options for entertainment and pleasure. Some options are good, some are not. But nothing can give us everything we need like Christ can.

Read Mark 5:27 & Luke 8:44 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- **What do you think convinced this woman that simply touching Jesus' clothes would heal her?**
Answers will vary, and we can't know for sure, but hearing all the stories of Jesus and possibly seeing some people who were changed by him could have given her faith.
- **Is it possible to follow Jesus without taking risks? Why or why not?**
Probably not. Life in Christ requires death to self (Matt. 16:24). Faith only grows when we move outside of our comfort zones to areas where we are dependent on Jesus.
- **What risks has your faith led you to take?**
Answers will vary—talking about Jesus with friends, leading a Bible study, joining a praise band on stage, going on a mission trip, etc.



ASK INTENTIONAL
QUESTIONS

Say something like: God tends to call us to do things that force us to depend on him, things we can't do on our own. It feels risky. But our faith and relationship with him grow when we rely on God more than we depend on ourselves.

FACILITATOR NOTE: If you have extra time, go through the next set of questions. If not, skip to the **Connection** section.

Read Luke 8:45–48 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- **Why do you think God gives us opportunities to share with others the stories of his work in our lives?**
It's good for everyone involved. It brings glory to God. It demonstrates his goodness to others. Our faith grows as we follow him in obedience.
- **How can we learn to recognize these God-given opportunities more often?**
Prayer and time. Ask God to open our eyes to his work around us. Like everything else, the more we practice, the better we get.



ASK INTENTIONAL
QUESTIONS

Say something like: God does not need us. It is for our benefit that he includes us in his work and Kingdom. Following God in obedience will be a blessing in our lives and the lives of those around us.



CONNECT & APPLY

CONNECTION

5-7 minutes

Show your students how Scripture connects to their lives: Use the example below OR share a personal story of a time your faith led you to do something that moved you outside your comfort zone.



SHARE PERSONAL STORIES

Example: At church camp this past summer, God changed Bailey's life. She became a follower of Jesus. She found a group of friends who welcomed and encouraged her. Those feelings of missing out and exclusion that were once a part of her every day have all but completely faded. At camp, her small group leader said the Bible teaches that Jesus can make people new. Bailey believed it because she experienced it. Tonight at church, the youth pastor asked if anyone would be willing to share their experience from summer camp with the whole church at next Sunday's main worship service. Bailey felt like she should volunteer to speak, but the thought of public speaking terrified her. She prayed about it, then told her youth pastor she'd do it.

- How do you know when God is calling you to do something?

Answers will vary, but God's Word, prayer, and other people are how God most often speaks to us.

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

2-3 minutes

Disciples of Christ understand Jesus is worth the risk.

Use the Mark of a Disciple to reinforce the lesson and challenge students to apply it to their lives.

APPLY IT

5-10 minutes

What is something you feel God leading you to do that feels risky? Share your answer with a parent, mentor, or trusted friend and ask them to hold you accountable for taking that risk.



MAKE LIFE APPLICATION

Be specific:

- What are you going to do?
- When are you going to do it?
- Is there someone who can keep you accountable?



HOLD STUDENTS ACCOUNTABLE

FACILITATOR NOTE: Allow students who are comfortable to share their plans for application. This may encourage or spark ideas for other students, plus add a level of accountability.



CLOSING

PRAYER

2–3 minutes

Take time to let your students pray for each other's applications in the upcoming weeks.
Write down any prayer requests mentioned and ask your students about them at your next meeting.

MEMORY VERSE

Send the memory verse graphic included in your download to your students later this week to keep the conversation going.

"And he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.'"

Luke 8:48 (ESV)

NOTES

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