

STUDY 3: OPENING UP TO GOD. Mark 5.25-34.

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

Debrief Together:

1. How does this woman's actions give us a picture of what faith looks like? How does her faith challenge or inspire you?
2. How would you describe Jesus' attitude towards this woman and her desire for healing?
3. Based on what we learn about Jesus in this passage, what do you think God's attitude is towards you and your needs?
4. What concerns you and what interests you about opening an area of need in your life to God?
5. What is an area of your life you would love to see change the most?

Going Deeper:

On a 3" by 5" card, write down one area in your life where you most want to invite God to change you.

- What do you want God to do for you in this area?
- Describe what your life would be like if you no longer struggled with this.
- What would it take for you to live differently? How can your friends help you?
- Consider praying with each other over the next week on this one topic.

SUMMARY: It says the woman had suffered for twelve years, and despite spending all she had on "many" doctors, all her efforts only led to dead-ends. Can you imagine suffering from a physical problem like this for so long? It's hard to maintain hope that anything can change when we've been disappointed so many times.