



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Lev. 15:25-30; Num. 19:11-13; 1 Kings 17:21; Matt. 4:21-22; 9:18-26; 14:36; Mark 3:10; 5:21-43; Luke 4:41; 5:1-11; 6:19; 7:14-15; 8:24-25; 9:1-2; 14:33; John 11:11; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; 15:22-26, 51-58; 2 Cor. 4:7; 12:9

Study Summary

After Jesus returns from a predominately Gentile region, He is welcomed back to Galilee by an eager crowd, among whom are two people desperate for His help: a suffering woman and a father with a dying child. Jesus shows compassion in His dealings with these individuals as He displays His power in overcoming the barriers that separate people from God and one another: unbelief, suffering, and death itself.

Historical & Theological Background

**Ritual Purity:** Lev. 15:25-30 and Num. 19:11-13 are only a few among the many places in the Mosaic Law that detail commands the people of God are to follow to keep themselves pure in a bodily sense. These laws were meant to set the people of Israel apart from the nations around them and create a safe place for sinful people to meet with a holy God. Because of these laws, the woman in this story was not only suffering physically, but also socially. Her continual bleeding meant that she was ritually unclean and would be excluded from worship in the temple. She would also very likely be ostracized by others who did not want to become unclean by coming in close contact with her. Additionally, touching the dead girl of this story would have caused ritual uncleanness. Yet, Jesus displays His power in making the unclean pure.

**Messianic Secret:** In verse 56 Jesus orders the mother and father to tell no one about the raising of their dead girl, which is the opposite command He gives to the healed Gentile man from the previous story (Luke 8:26-39). This may be because, in a Jewish region, Jesus was seeking to keep the people of Israel from misinterpreting His true identity and mission. Jesus' protection of His identity in this way throughout the Gospels is termed the Messianic Secret. During this period of time the nation of Israel was eager for the coming of a warrior messiah who they believed would defeat their Roman occupiers. Jesus doesn't want to be mistaken as the answer to these false hopes, for He is the true Messiah who has come not to take power, but give it away in His death on the cross. At the point that this story comes in Jesus' ministry, He knows He still has ministry to do until He finishes His work on the cross, so perhaps He doesn't want to draw any false acclaim as He approaches His final days.

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Take some time to read through the passage thoughtfully and prayerfully. Allow yourself to be immersed in the text and let the Spirit guide you as you read and reflect upon it. Consider what word, phrase, character, or story element stands out to you. Give yourself some time to ponder this word/phrase/story element and then ask God how it connects with your life. What must you know, be, or do in light of this passage? Take a look at the Textual Intersection questions as they relate to the text before you meet as a group.

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 8:40-56

**Big Idea: Jesus Destroys All Barriers Keeping us From Him and One Another**  
**Fallen Condition Focus: Unbelief/Barriers**

- How do the people respond to Jesus when He returns to Galilee (v. 40)? How is this different from the response of the people in the region He just left? (See v. 37)
- Why does the bleeding woman approach Jesus secretly (v. 43-44)? What does the Mosaic Law say about her condition? What personal and social difficulties and barriers might she be facing? (See Lev. 15:25-30 and HTB)
- Why does Jesus require the woman to tell her story (v. 46-47)? How does this exemplify Jesus' compassion for the woman? How is the woman healed (v. 48)?
- What happens after the seeming distraction of the bleeding woman? What does Jesus encourage Jairus to do (v. 50-51)?
- How is the raising of the dead girl similar and different from the healing of the woman? (See Num. 19:11-13 and HTB)
- Where is belief and unbelief found in this story? (See Verses 45, 48, 49-50, 53)

**Gospel Connection:** Read 1 Cor. 1:18-25. How is the power of Christ displayed in the cross?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- What barriers tend to separate the people around us? How should we respond to these barriers?
- Are there any barriers keeping you from growing in a deeper relationship with God or others? How might you overcome these barriers?
- Jesus shows great compassion in His dealings with the various characters of this story. How has Jesus shown you compassion? What would it look like for you to receive His care in the broken places of your life?
- Where are you struggling with unbelief? What would it look like for you to start taking steps of faith?
- Jesus displays great power in this story. How does the world define power? How should we define power? What does this mean for our daily lives? (2 Cor. 12:9)

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read Luke 8:40-56 and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ?    |
| 2) The fallen human condition?        | 5) Our obedience to Christ?   |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ?        | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • a command to obey?  | • a beauty to behold?  | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe?  | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell?     |