

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Transforming Pain Into Purpose

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a great and safe holiday season. God has plenty of work for us to do this year.....let's get to it!

MEMORY VERSE

"...Take heart, daughter," He said, "your faith has healed you." – Matthew 9: 22 (NIV)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – TRANSFORMING PAIN INTO PURPOSE

GETTING STARTED

Another new year has begun, and there's plenty of excitement that is ahead in each of our futures. Go around and share what you are hoping for in 2010, and what you're excited to see God do in your life.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Matthew 9: 18. What does the ruler ask Jesus, and by him asking it, what does that tell you about him and his belief in what Jesus could do?
2. Now read Matthew 9: 14-18. From this, we gather that Jesus was in the middle of a conversation when the ruler approached him. Now Read Matthew 9: 19. What does Jesus do, and what does that tell you about Him?
3. Jesus, though He was in the middle of a conversation, He saw someone else's need, and responded to it. He got up and left to go help. In light of this, how should we respond when someone needs our help? Should we only help others when it is convenient for us? Should we always help everyone who approaches us? Share your thoughts.
4. Read Matthew 9: 20-21. What happens when Jesus is on the way to help the ruler? What does the woman's thought tell you about her belief in Jesus' power?
5. The woman touching Jesus' robe proved she believed that He could heal her. Do you truly believe in Jesus' power? When you pray, do you REALLY believe that He can do what you ask? If you do believe, then what will prove that? Share your thoughts.

6. If you really believe that Jesus can answer prayer, then your actions will support that belief. If you pray for rain, and believe it will happen, then you'll carry an umbrella. Now look at Matthew 9: 22. How does Jesus respond to the woman?
7. Once again, Jesus has been interrupted, yet He still takes the time to help someone in need, and He heals the woman. But why did He? What does He say to her?
8. Jesus tells her that it is because of her faith that she was healed. Are there any things that you are praying about, but you're faith really isn't very sure of? If someone is willing, share.
9. Now read Matthew 9: 23-26. How does this story conclude? Compare the faith of the ruler to the faith of those who were in the ruler's home. Explain the difference. Which faith does yours resemble more, the faith of the crowd or the faith of the ruler?

BRINGING IT HOME

“AFTER THE CROWD HAD BEEN PUT OUTSIDE, HE WENT IN AND TOOK THE GIRL BY THE HAND, AND SHE GOT UP” – MATTHEW 9: 25 (NIV)

1. The faith of the ruler and the faith of the woman were proved by their actions. They were willing to come to Jesus with their requests. This week, let's have our actions prove our words, and take a step of faith in some area of your life.
2. Just like Jesus, we should be willing to help those in need, even when it's not always convenient. This week, help someone in need and see what happens.