

WEEK 17 DAY 1

Today's Reading: Luke 8:40-48

Have you ever wanted something so much that you felt desperate? You believed you knew precisely what to do to get it, and you started figuring out how to make it happen. This is exactly what we read about in this week's passage in Luke.

A woman, whom we know only by her ailment, not her name, had experienced a flow of blood for 12 years. She had tried everything she could to get healing from the physicians, but nothing worked. She knew what she had to do. She had to get to Jesus and touch His garment, so she would be healed. She positioned herself in the crowd and waited for Jesus to make His way to her. When He came close, she reached out and touched the fringe of His garment. Immediately, she was healed. The blood stopped flowing!

Jesus stopped and asked, "Who touched me?" Jesus had felt the healing power flow out into the woman. He knew healing had taken place. By inquiring of the crowd, Jesus opened the door for the woman to testify of her healing. After listening to her testify, Jesus compassionately called her His daughter, revealing she was not only physically healed, but also spiritually healed. She was a daughter to the King of Kings. "Go in peace," He instructed her.

Can you imagine the peace this woman felt? She was able to be reunited with her family and friends and was completely healed. What a testimony Jesus built in this woman!

No matter how God has gifted us, let's not hide it

- Do you see Jesus building a testimony in your life?
- What do you have to testify to all those around you of what Jesus has done or is doing in your life?

PRAYER:

Lord, reveal to me the things for which I need to testify.

**Bonus Reading: Matthew 9:20-22;
Mark 5:25-34**

WEEK 17 DAY 2

Today's Reading: Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

Grief is an emotion every person will experience at some point in life. The anticipation of grief can be just as agonizing as the grief itself. Today's passage introduces Jairus, a ruler at the synagogue, whose daughter was very sick. He knew she was ill enough to die, and he sought out Jesus. In fact, Jairus fell at His feet and begged Jesus to come to his house and heal his 12-year-old daughter. Jairus knew the source of healing he needed to pursue.

Jesus arrived at Jairus's home and was met by messengers who reported it was "too late," and encouraged Jesus not to go into the home. The girl was dead. Jesus responded, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." The girl's parents took Jesus to her. They had faith in the words Jesus had spoken; they didn't question or hesitate. Amidst skeptical laughter from onlookers, Jesus, the girl's parents, Peter, James and John entered the room.

The parents of the girl exhibited bold faith and belief that He could make her well again. When she got up, her parents were amazed but never doubted from where the source of her healing came. According to this passage, Jesus instructed them not to tell anyone what had happened. He built a testimony in this family and requested they not tell anyone what they had experienced.

This interaction with Jairus's daughter was a foretaste of the death, Resurrection, and life to come. It was not yet time for everyone to know what was to come in Jesus' life and how God would work to save mankind through Him. It was time to save a young girl and bring a family into the saving grace of the Father.

- Are you walking in the saving grace that Jesus so generously provides?

PRAYER:

Lord, I ask that You forgive me of my sins and fill me with Your saving grace. Amen

**Bonus Reading: Matthew 9:18-26;
Mark 5:21-43**

WEEK 17 DAY 3

Today's Reading: Luke 9:1-9

Throughout the ministry of Jesus, many men and women followed Him. They sat at His feet, listening and learning everything He taught. But today we read something distinctive: Jesus called 12 men together and gave them power and authority over demons and the ability to heal people. He gave them clear direction on how to share the Good News they had been given. The 12 apostles left Jesus and did exactly as He had commanded them, proclaiming the kingdom of God and healing people along the way.

Just as we are commissioned as believers today, these men were sent in multiple directions to share with everyone. They were given power and authority to affirm their sender, Yahweh, the one true God. As they proclaimed the message they had been given, Jesus knew that they would face opposition. His power would give them the ability to speak and perform miracles in His name.

As followers of Christ, we must always remember we have that same power! At the moment we invited Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit came to indwell us. The Holy Spirit supernaturally provides us with the strength and power of the Lord. This doesn't mean we can all walk around casting out demons and healing people. But it does mean, according to God's will and choosing, He can use us to reveal His power, strength and loving grace.

- Are you plugging into the power of the Holy Spirit in your walk with the Lord?
- Do you allow the Holy Spirit to teach you and work through you to minister to those around you?

PRAYER:

Lord, please teach me to surrender to Your will.
Help me to rely on the Holy Spirit within me to
minister to others in Your Name. Amen

**Bonus Reading: Matthew 10:1-15;
Mark 3:13-19**

WEEK 17 DAY 4

Today's Reading: Luke 8:40-9:9
(use a different translation)

Perhaps you noticed a recurring theme while reading through this week's passage in Luke. Jairus had a 12-year-old daughter; the woman had had a discharge of blood for 12 years, and Jesus called 12 men to go out and share the Gospel. Anytime we see a number used in Scripture or a repetition of a word, it is always a good idea to dig in and see what it means.

In Scripture, the number 12 is used frequently. In Hebrew, the number 12 signifies perfect government, God's government, and divine order. We see the number 12 show up in the 12 tribes of Israel, 12 sons of Jacob, 12 disciples, 12 gates, and 12 angels in the book of Revelation. The number 12 is revealed throughout the text of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. It's a reminder of God's faithfulness and how His promises are fulfilled. For instance, the 12 tribes of Israel fulfilled God's promise to Abraham, providing an excellent example of His faithfulness to each of us.

The number 12 is woven throughout Scripture like a thread in a tapestry, contributing to the bigger narrative of the Bible. As we study how God has sewn each section together to fulfill prophecy, it adds depth and richness to our understanding of God's Word, while also providing a vivid insight into the reality of who God is.

- Am I reading God's Word to notice the details and understand God's character more?

Do I read the Bible for content and knowledge, or
am I reading to understand God better?

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, help me understand Your Word more
deeply and intimately. Please reveal Yourself to
me more. Amen.

**Bonus Reading: Luke 2:41-52;
Leviticus 24:5; Genesis 17:20;
Genesis 35:22; Genesis 49:28;
Exodus 15:27; Exodus 28:21;
Matthew 10:2; Revelation 21:21**

WEEK 17 DAY 5

Today's Reading: Luke 8:40-9:9
(read a third translation)

I love studying God's Word because I learn something new every time I read it. I can read a very familiar story, and suddenly, a new detail jumps off the page. Why is this? Because God's Word is living and active! God reveals things to us in Scripture to grow and teach us as we study.

As most of us are keenly aware, our circumstances and needs are constantly changing. Thus, our knowledge should be increasingly growing to meet those changing needs. When we read a passage such as Psalm 23, we are reminded the Lord will comfort us and lead us when times are difficult. If we read Psalm 23 after suddenly losing a loved one, the words bear specific significance to our situation. No matter our journey, Scripture affirms God loves us, walks with us, and carries us as we are in need. It's with that assurance we can begin to understand how to fear no evil as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. This Scripture, a beautiful guide, is a tremendous comfort.

As we continue to walk through Scripture, let's resist the tendency to focus our attention toward what Scripture means to us, and instead ask, "What is the Lord teaching me, and how does the Lord reveal Himself in this passage?" As we seek to remove the focus from ourselves and onto knowing God more, His Words will flow from the pages of our Bible into our hearts in new and impactful ways.

Lord, reveal the sin in my life. I confess my sin to
You now and receive your forgiveness.

- Am I reading Scripture to apply it to my life? Or
am I reading it to understand God more?

PRAYER:

Lord, reveal Yourself through Your Word. I ask
that You teach and grow me through studying Your
Holy Bible. Amen.

**Bonus Reading: Hebrews 4:12; 2
Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 24:35;
4:4**