
Next Week's Life Group: Follow Me: To The Garden
Next Week's Story: Matthew 26:47-56 Betrayal & Arrest of Jesus

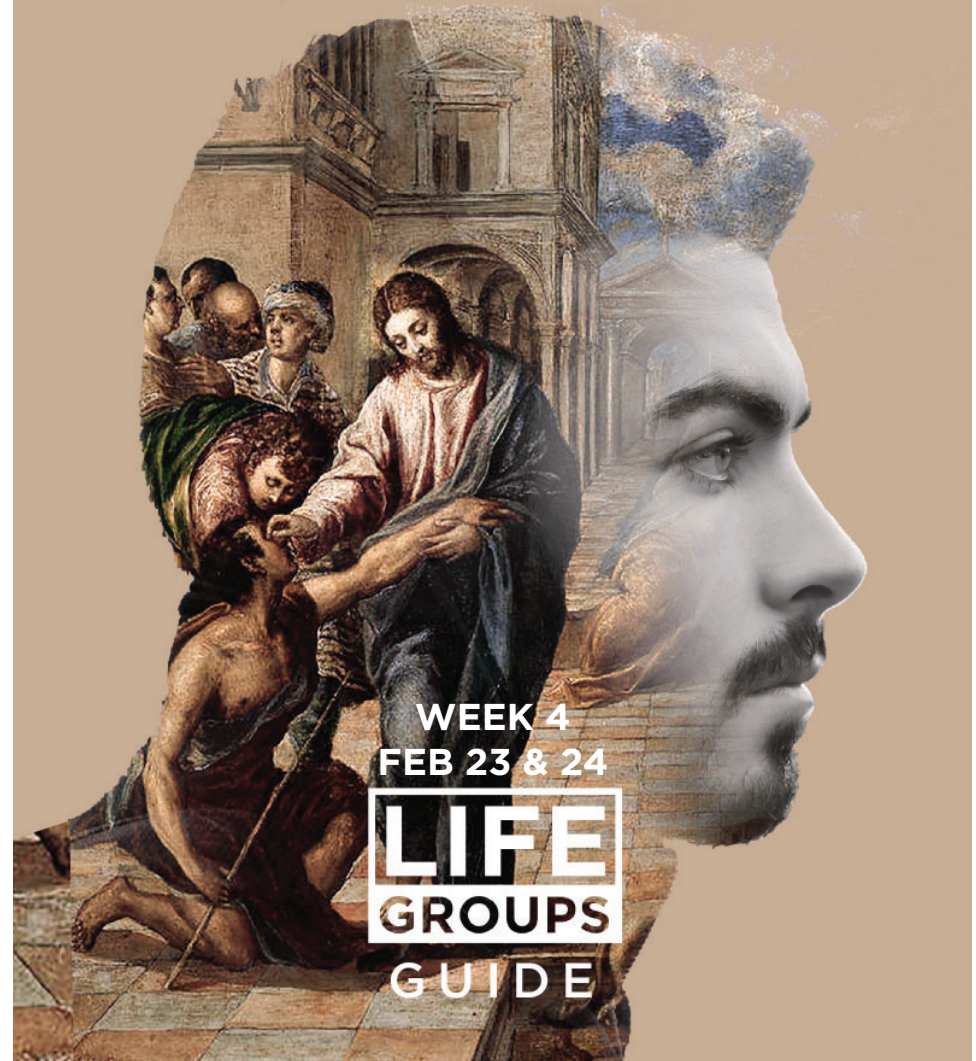
Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

follow me



FOLLOW ME

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

GETTING STARTED

Have you ever asked God for healing? What happened?

STORY BACKGROUND

In this compelling series of events, we find Jesus constantly surrounded by people eager to experience his miraculous power. Having just rebuked the wind and the waves on the Sea of Galilee, he now returns to find a crowd waiting for him. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, begs Jesus to heal his 12-year old daughter who is dying. On the way to his house, Jesus feels power leave his body as a woman stricken by ongoing blood loss, touches his robe from behind, and is immediately healed. He calls her out, and trembling in fear, she shares her testimony. Her fear is understandable as she now faces the consequences of breaking a sacred rule by willfully coming in contact with other people.

According to the purity laws of the Old Testament (Leviticus 15:25-27), a person with an issue of blood is to remain quarantined. Also, *“whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening”* (verse 27). At great risk of public embarrassment or worse, and exhibiting great faith, she reaches out to touch Jesus. Without a word being spoken, she is healed, and Jesus, apparently unfazed by the violation of the law at hand, tells her that her faith has made her well, and to go in peace (verse 48). We then return to the previous request, only to find that during this interruption in Jesus’ journey to Jairus’ house his daughter has now died.

TO GREATER FAITH



STORY: Luke 8:43-48

MEMORY VERSE:

Hebrews 11:1 - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*



Head Level: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- Why were the disciples so convinced that nothing was extraordinary about Jesus being “touched”?
- Why was the woman reluctant to being called out for what she had done?
- What other examples can you find in scripture that reinforce the idea that what God says is clean, is clean (hint: Read Acts 10:9-16)?



Heart Level: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Put yourself in this woman’s sandals. What would you have done when you saw Jesus pass by?
- How does your own culture, education or family background make it hard to have the kind of faith that this woman exhibits in this story?
- Have you ever witnessed or experienced something that you would call a miracle? (Describe what happened and your reaction.)



Hands Level: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- How is Jesus calling you to a deeper level of trust or commitment?
- What would it look like in your life/situation to emulate the kind of faith that this woman has in Jesus? (For example: what current challenge are you facing that is requiring you to have extraordinary faith?)