

JESUS: UNIVERSAL HEALER

Open

The many needs in the world can feel overwhelming. Where do we start? Can we make a difference? Should we start with those who are most in need? How do you approach these challenging questions?

Context

Two people approach Jesus with urgent needs: a respected leader whose daughter is dying and an overlooked woman with a chronic illness. The well-connected leader reaches Jesus first, but the woman, unnoticed, also seeks his help.

Read [Luke 8:40–56](#) (NIV)

Discuss

1. While traveling to Jairus' home, Jesus encounters a woman with chronic menstrual bleeding. In ancient Israel, a woman in this condition would be considered ceremonially "unclean" (see Lev 15:19–30). Based on her actions in the story, what mental and emotional state do you think the bleeding woman was in?

Leader Note	The woman's bleeding is most likely menorrhagia, a disease in which the menstrual flow is abnormally prolonged, usually producing anemia.
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2. By touching Jesus' robe, the woman risked further social repercussions. Jewish law deemed her "unclean," and contact with her would have made Jesus ritually "unclean" as well. By Jewish law, Jesus is thus prohibited from approaching Jairus' daughter until the next day.

Why did she still take the risk to touch Jesus? How would you feel in her situation?
3. How does Jesus respond to the woman? Why does he declare that her healing resulted from her faith (v. 48)?

Leader Note	Jesus not only heals her body—he publicly affirms her dignity by calling her "Daughter," a term of inclusion and love. He tells her to "go in peace," signaling wholeness—physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.
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Jesus wants her to believe that her healing comes from her personal connection to him through faith. He frames the healing as relational, not transactional, and emphasizes that the miracle should be made known for her benefit and as a testimony.

4. Meanwhile, how might Jairus feel upon hearing that his daughter has died (v. 49)? What thoughts and emotions would you experience in his place? How might Jesus use the delay to challenge and strengthen Jairus' faith (vv. 49-50)?

Reflect

Reflect on one (or more) of the characters below. Which among them do you most closely identify with?

➤ The Woman

We all have wounds. Like the outcast woman, we long for healing without the risk of sharing our hurts.

What chronic issues would you seek Jesus' help for? What barriers prevent you from approaching Him?

➤ The Synagogue Leader

Any of us might grow impatient, as Jairus undoubtedly did, when God delays the healing we desire. How can Jesus' raising Jairus' daughter from the dead encourage us to trust God when He doesn't heal according to our schedule?

➤ The Crowds

Within ancient Israel's intensely patriarchal context, people probably viewed the woman (likely unmarried) as worthless. In contrast, the synagogue leader commanded great respect.

How can you mirror Jesus' response in engaging those typically "unseen?"

Leader Note	Jesus calls the bleeding woman "daughter" (v. 48), placing her on equal footing with the ruler's daughter. Those chronically ill mean just as much to God as bright, privileged schoolgirls.
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The woman took a courageous step of faith, risking shame and rejection to reach Jesus. Similarly, some patients demonstrate remarkable bravery in seeking care, especially when facing barriers such as language, fear, discrimination, or trauma. As future or current healthcare professionals or caregivers in other roles, how might Jesus' values influence the way you approach patients who are:

- Economically disadvantaged?
- Addicted or mentally ill?
- Immigrants or marginalized?
- Physically or mentally challenged?

Leader Note	Many patients feel invisible, dehumanized, or ashamed due to their diagnosis, stigma, or background (e.g., mental illness, HIV, homelessness). Recognize and affirm that seeking help is an act of strength, not weakness. Affirm that they are seen and are more than their illness or diagnoses.
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Pray

Imagine Jesus coming alongside you during a time of struggle or suffering. What is He saying? Pray for the courage to present these wounds to him, enter into his care, and for patience and sustained faith as you await healing. Ask Him to guide and empower you in helping others.