

ENCOUNTERS

Two Daughters

Growth Group Opener:

How do you usually respond to interruptions when you're in a hurry?

Read Mark 5:21-43

This woman and Jairus could not be more opposite. Note all the contrasts you see between the two people who approached Jesus in this passage.

How did Jesus receive each of these two people?

Do you feel more like the woman or Jairus in how you approach Jesus at this point in your life?

Under Leviticus 15, this woman would have been disqualified from community life due to her condition. How does this connect to the way in which she approaches Jesus?

For 12 years, this woman's suffering had been chronic, expensive, and isolating. Have you ever carried anything that felt like that? What did the length of it do to your soul?

Even though he was on his way to someone else who needed him, Jesus stopped and drew this woman out into the open. What did he give her that perhaps she didn't even know or dare to ask for?

What does this tell us of how Jesus values people, even when other needs are urgent?

When word came that Jairus' daughter had died, Jesus did not apologize for the delay. He reframed it. What can we learn about faith when the worst has already happened, or when God's help feels too long in coming?

Where in your life do you need to hold onto the invitation, "Do not fear, only believe?"

What did Jesus give each of these two daughters that went beyond just healing?

What can we learn about God from this story?

Is there anything you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for seeing us. Thank you for stopping and looking directly at us in our great need for you. Thank you for giving us a family among those who follow you. Help us to hold on when it feels like your presence or help is delayed, knowing that you do all things in your holy timing. Lord, help us stop and see those who need you, and need your family, even in the midst of our own busyness. In the name of Jesus, amen.