LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE & AFTER: HOW JESUS TRANSFORMS OUR LIVES

Sermon Text: Matthew 9:18-26
Date: November 22, 2026

OVERVIEW
In Matthew 9, two desperate individuals come to Jesus with seemingly impossible circumstances, finding hope in His power and compassion. Their encounters remind us that God can use our suffering and helplessness to draw us into deeper dependence on Him. While faith in Christ does not guarantee freedom from suffering in this life, His victory over sin and death gives us an unshakable hope that extends beyond our present circumstances and into eternity.

Related Scriptures: Matthew 18:3; John 15:5; Matthew 11:28–30; John 11:25–26

1. What stood out to you from the sermon or passage? Was there anything that encouraged you, challenged you, or helped you see Jesus or the gospel more clearly?

Read: Matthew 9:18-19

2. Jairus was a respected religious leader, yet his desperation brought him humbly to the feet of Jesus. Why do you think we often find it easier to depend on ourselves when life is going well? How can seasons of difficulty expose our need for God and draw us into deeper dependence on Him?

3. Pastor Jared identified three characteristics of surrendered faith: **dependence, humility, and trust**. Which of these do you find most challenging in your own walk with Christ? What might it look like to grow in that area, particularly when circumstances are beyond your control?

Read: Matthew 9:20-22

4. The woman had suffered for twelve years and exhausted her resources seeking healing. Despite her imperfect understanding, she came to Jesus in faith. What does her encounter teach us about the kind of faith Jesus welcomes? How does knowing that we don't need to have everything figured out before coming to Christ encourage us in our own struggles?

5. How can we continue to trust in God's goodness and sovereignty when our prayers seem unanswered or our circumstances don't change? What truths about God's character and His promises help sustain our faith in those seasons?

Read: Matthew 9:23–26 and John 11:25–26

6. Jesus demonstrates His authority over death by raising Jairus' daughter, pointing us toward the greater hope of His own resurrection. How does knowing that Jesus has conquered sin and death change the way we face suffering, loss, and uncertainty? How can this eternal hope shape the way we live today?