

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"CONNECTED" | LUKE 8:40-8:56 | PASTOR DAN EFFINGER

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is the strangest disease you've heard of?

"Jesus Went" (Luke 8: 40-42)

Jairus, a leader at his synagogue, falls at Jesus' feet begging for Jesus to come heal his only daughter who is dying, and Jesus goes. **What kind of faith does Jairus have in this situation? Who are people like Jairus you know currently?**

"Jesus Heals" (Luke 8: 43-48)

A woman is healed from a long-term illness as she touches Jesus' cloak in the midst of a large crowd. Jesus has her share her story and blesses her. **Why does Jesus encourage her to go public with her illness and healing? How does the "crowds" in our lives (family, friends, culture) make it difficult to follow Jesus' encouragement?**

"Jesus Restores" (Luke 8: 49-56)

Jairus' daughter dies, but Jesus encourages him to not fear but believe and then raises the little girl back to life. **What do we learn about Jesus from His actions with Jairus and his daughter? What is so difficult in your life right now that your faith is challenged by what you see?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus shows through these healings that He has come to connect separated people to His love and power, to restore a broken world. When we come to Jesus, our faith is challenged more than we expected but we see more love and power than we thought possible. **How are you being called to have courageous faith today? Do you believe that Jesus can make the difference between what you can do with His compassion and power? Be honest with God about your situation and ask Him to give you courageous faith.**

Separate but Connected?

1. This section of Luke is very appropriate for today. Its the world that we live in

- (8) First - It's a world that has been dramatically broken by sin where the difficult is normative for the human experience.
 - If something is broken it's been separated from its original design.
 - The good news is that if it's been separated it can be resurrected.
- (8) Second - It's a world where our faith is at war. It's fought in the heart every day.

Luke 8:19 | "Then Jesus' mother and brothers **came to see him**, but they couldn't get to him because of the crowd."

Luke 8:21 | "Jesus replied, "My mother and my brothers are all those who **hear God's word and obey it.**""

- (8) He say's my mother and brothers want to bridge the gap of separation, and Jesus say's we are **connected** through hearing, and obedience to His teachings..

Luke 8:24 | "The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "**Master, Master**, we're going to drown!" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm."

- (8) When we are worried about being separated from life He is there to **connect** us to His comfort, power and peace

Luke 8:25 | "Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?" The disciples were terrified and amazed. "**Who is this man?**" they asked each other. "When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!""

- (8) He is separate from us He is not like us, but he wants us to be **connected**.

Luke 8:37 | "And all the people in the region of the **Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone**, for a great wave of fear swept over them. So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake."

- (8) Failure to see God at work leaves us separated and **connected** to only what we can see and have power over.

- **(9) Third - It's a world that has been invaded because God was not willing for the world to remain without hope in this condition. – SEPARATION**
- Our original design was meant to be completely connected and all of life no separated has been a battle to get connected.
 - Multiply Goodness
 - Rule and Have dominion. – Accomplish and have wisdom over our environment.
 - Be connected with others and it is good.
 - We were meant to not have to make judgements – That was the domain of God.
 - We were meant to be in constant contact with God.
- The rest of history has been about God who is reaching to connect us to his love.
- And now Jesus is saying look at me and you will see the Father.
- This isn't a narrative whose main characters are Jairus and The Woman in need of healing. It's a story that shows us the God who is hope.
 - (9) This is so we don't live **aimless** in this world.
 - (9) This is so we don't remain **SEPARATED FROM** "love" in this world.
 - (9) This is so we don't live **without** hope.
 - (9) This is so all of our **questions** are answered in the God who is all of these things.
 - This is Jesus who came so that we might see that He and the Father are ONE.
- 2. **(10) What I want for us to keep in mind this morning is the question of **How does God repair this broken world? What is His ultimate tool?****
 - His ultimate tool is Himself.....
 - It's not our faith that heals but it's the object of our faith that heals.
- You see Jesus has come to seek and save that which is lost. We have been separated and he has come to bring the ultimate healing.....

(11) Luke 8:40–56 | "Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. " "And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And **falling at Jesus'** feet, he implored him to come to his house, " "for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. **As Jesus went**, the people pressed around him. " "And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. " "**She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment**, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. " "And Jesus said, "Who was it that **touched** me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" " "But Jesus said, "Someone **touched** me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." " "And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had **touched** him, and how she had been immediately healed. " "And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; **go in peace.**" "

(12) "While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." " "But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." " "And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. " "And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." " "**And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.** " "But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "**Child, arise.**" " "And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be **given her to eat.** " "And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened."

- **The main point of the narrative is not the healing, but Jesus who breaks through the brokenness of our world to bridge the gap to all things separated, and connect them and us to God.**
 - When we are being separated from things it demands our effort, and attention to things greater than our self for restoration.

- Lets note that Jesus is not willing for this separated world to be unconnected to the power and compassion of God.
- What God uses to heal the brokenness in our world is **Himself**.
- **Jesus will interrupt the brokenness, the separation that we all are subject to. And what he says we aren't alone.**

Luke 8:40 | "On the other side of the lake the crowds welcomed Jesus, because they had been waiting for him."

- **The crowds have been separated from Jesus and now they rejoice at their connection.**
 - Who are you waiting for?
 - Who are you willing to welcome?
 - I would say the object of your faith is the answer.
 - I would say where you look when something goes wrong.....
 - We are all vulnerable to this kind of attack on our faith.

(13) Luke 8:41 | "Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to **come home with him."**

- **Oh that we would remember to call on Jesus to come home with us.**
 - **Jairus is a leader, the closest thing to deacon in church's today.**
 - **Probably responsible for how the synagogue was used and kept.**
 - **Notoriety.**
 - **At risk of losing all.**
- **Who is Jairus? We are Jairus – full of both faith and doubt..... **Jairus is us**.....**
 - **"You never know what this Jesus can do." And none of us knows all that Jesus can do.**

- **(13) In the darkest day we can still hope in the unsearchable riches and the all-sufficient grace and the unconquerable power of God.1**

- We see why Jairus was so willing to seek Jesus out.

"for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

- She was an only child.
- The light of her parents' life had gone out.
- She was about twelve years of age.

- Sin caused a separation from the way things are supposed to be.....

- When we look to Jesus He will show us the way things can be.

- This is a **radical** faith.....
- Desperate times call for a **desperate** faith
- Faith **grabs hold** of Jesus.
- Faith is often **costly** as we let go of our limits.

- Maybe you are being challenged this morning and your faith is desperate?

- Grab hold of Jesus –
- This man is **desperate** and falls before Jesus and finds **kindness** and **compassion**.
- "It says as **Jesus went**....."

- **Whatever Jesus was planning to do Jesus now went towards his house.**
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(14) Luke 8:44 | There is a woman in the crowd, She is desperate, hopeless, and courageous –

"**She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment**, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. " "And Jesus said, "Who was it that **touched** me?"

- **Jesus notices the least of us and treats all with respect and love. "I felt power leave me."**
 - "**Hapto**" There is the kind of touching that is accidental.
 - But there is also the kind that is firm and intentional> that is the kind of touching here>
 - **The teacher cares about my suffering.**
 - He cares about this world separated from "life".
 - He cares about the **least** of us. Because He came to save "all".
 - **Here is our reason to get up in the morning.** Because **this world has been invaded by a rescuer** who come heal all of us who have been **separated** from the glory of God.
- As we look at this we should ask do we really care about this woman who would have passed unnoticed. **Who cares about a little girl gone thousands of years ago?**
 - **Jesus does!** And he cares for us too.
 - She was simply a human soul in need.
 - **Love never thinks of people in terms of human importance.**
 - Almost everybody would have regarded the woman in the crowd as totally unimportant.
 - **For Jesus she was someone in need**, and therefore he, as it were, withdrew from the crowd and gave himself to her.
- **Jesus is in full glory to us when we are most needy.**
 - "God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love."
 - She had exceeded the limits of her own power and she reaches to Jesus.

- When we look to **connect to love** what happens?
Our **identity**, and dignity is restored.
Our **hope** is established that life isn't hopeless.

6. **What Jesus does for us in this story is to remind us that we aren't alone and see this as a shadow of the way things are going to be. –**

- That which is separated is connected.

“And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”

- God has acted on my behalf and I am healed..... **No longer separated**
- Be at peace despite what is around you..... **No longer separated**
- Restored to **community**..... **No longer separated.**
- **When we grab on to Jesus he will not look away.**

"While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, “Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more.” " "But Jesus on hearing this answered him, “Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.

7. How many times do we act in faith and then think we were wrong because it doesn't go well?

- **True faith looks past the brokenness of this world.**
- **Faith is always the first casualty in war.....**
- “Only believe”.
- Jesus says **connect** to the **powerful One**,
- Jesus says “**connect** to the **compassionate One**,
- This is abundant life.

- No one can blame him at his disappointment.
- Everything says it's over. – It didn't work.
- **How you interpret the facts of your situation will enlighten your response.**
 - Jesus wants us to know **He is here.**
 - Jesus wants us to know **that our faith connects us to Him.**
 - Our **faith connects us to a savior who is on a mission to connect us with God.**
- **Our faith connects us to a savior who is about changing and restoring us.**
 - Faith is only as big as it's object.
 - If you connect to Jesus as only a great teacher then all you have is great teaching.
 - If you connect to Jesus as a gift giver then all you have is great gifts.
 - If you connect to Jesus only when you are in trouble then all you have is a peacemaker.
 - But if you connect to Jesus as a Savior, then you the greatest thing of All.... You have HIM!
- **What gets in the way of our faith?**
 - 6 months of financial struggle. We are separated from the security that finances bring but Jesus wants to be our security.
 - A wayward child and separated from the love you anticipated? Jesus calls us to trust in His love and connect to Him.
 - That's not to say these things aren't deeply troubling but when we turn in faith we understand what it is that we are truly missing.
 - What is the noise of the crowd that you have been hearing that is keeping you from being satisfied in Jesus?
 - Let Jesus be the object of your faith and look past the crowd.

8. "And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead."

- Like the Gerasenes they mock what they can't see.
- They can't see the power of God so they look away, and are sent away.

"Luke 8:54 | "Then Jesus took her by the hand and said in a loud voice, "My child, get up!""

9. Jesus has come to make known what He has come for... To the smallest and least. He cares!

- **This world is still separated from the original design.**

- We face things bigger than we ever imagined. Horrible and distressing things.
- We face things and we don't know what to do.
- We face things and believe no one notices
- We face things beyond comprehension.
- **(15) These accounts in Luke are so we will know that our world has been invaded by a savior who is power, who is wisdom, who is care, and who wants to connect us to His love.**
- So that we would know He has come to seek and save that which has been separated.