

Study Series: Chasing God

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 Lesson Title: “The Ink” (pp. 56-65)

Session 05

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The main point of this lesson is: Blessings from God are not dependent on our efforts as we tend to think but upon accepting that He has chosen us.

Focus on this goal: To help adults realize God notices and chooses them as His children.

Key Bible Passages: Mark 15:21; Luke 8:40-56

Before the Session

1. Enlist a learner to briefly retell the story of Jairus and his daughter (Luke 8:40-56). (Step 4)

2. Bring paper and writing instruments to class. (Step 6)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask participants if they have ever written a letter of recommendation for another person. *If so, what would be some common phrases in that letter?*

Read 2 Corinthians 3:3 and state that Christians are, in a way, “letters of recommendation” for God and His transforming work.

State that this session focuses on Jesus, in His daily journey, encountering people whom He would transform.

Step 2. Day 1 – The Ink

**Call on** a volunteer to read Luke 8:43-48.

**Ask:** *In what ways does this unnamed woman become a portrait of anyone who has found themselves in a desperate situation?*

**Write** desperate on a whiteboard and **challenge** learners to think of descriptive words for the woman for each letter in that word.

**State** that at her point of having no other options available to her, she timidly approached Jesus from behind and touched His garment, then her life and her world changed forever.

**Guide** learners to share their diary entries or pictures they have created about this woman (Day One, activity 2, p. 57).

Step 3. Day 2 - Noticed

**Guide** learners to focus on Jesus’ words in Luke 8:45,46,48.

**State** that even as the crowd was pressing against Jesus and the disciples were trying to hurry Him along, Jesus insisted on knowing who had touched Him and on commending the woman for her faith.

**Ask:** *Why was it important for Jesus to acknowledge the woman?*

**State** that, while the woman could have gone unnoticed by Jesus, He not only noticed her but also healed her.

**Challenge** learners to notice and minister to people in their daily lives (Day Two, activity 2, p. 59).

Step 4. Day 3 - Chosen

**Explain** that even as this miracle was unfolding, tragic news came from Jairus’s household.

**Call on** the person enlisted earlier to briefly tell the story of Jairus and his daughter (Luke 8:40-42,49-56).

**Draw attention** to the fact that Jesus addressed the woman as “daughter” (v. 48) and the little girl as “child” (v. 54), and that in both accounts a touch occurred between Jesus and the person who needed to be healed. Both the woman and little girl would have amazing testimonies about their relationship with Jesus.

**Organize** the class into groups and **have** half the groups write a condensed testimony for the woman and the other half write a condensed testimony for the little girl (Day Three, activity 1, p. 60).

After a few minutes, **call on** the small groups to share their testimonies.

**State** that sometimes we only have a sliver of time to share what Jesus has done in our lives.

**Lead** learners to share their testimonies in their small groups in fifty words or less (Day Three, activity 2, p. 60) and to practice sharing these testimonies so they will be ready to share when unexpected opportunities arise.

Step 5. Day 4 - Seen from the Start

**Ask** learners *if they have ever been chosen to do an unwanted task and if they learned any lessons from that experience.*

If time permits, **allow** a few brief examples.

**Call on** a volunteer to read Mark 15:21.

**Explain** that Simon of Cyrene was chosen from the crowd to carry Jesus’ cross.

**Ask:** *What are some reactions that Simon of Cyrene might have had to this task?*

**Challenge** learners to explain what it means to “bear a cross,” and, as they feel comfortable doing so, to share what cross they may be bearing now (Day Four, activity 1, p. 62).

**Call on** a volunteer to read Mark 8:34-35.

**Ask:** *How can bearing a cross be a testimony—a letter written on our hearts—of our faith in Jesus?*

Step 6. Day 5 – Time to Believe

**State** that the Bible clearly teaches that God made us in His image (Gen. 1:27), but sometimes our tendency is to try to make God in our image and make assumptions about Him.

**Invite** learners to share assumptions they have made about God that proved to be untrue (Day Five, activity 1, p. 64).

**Distribute** the paper and writing instruments to learners and **lead** them to write these assumptions on the paper.

**Instruct** them to throw the papers in the trash can because such assumptions will impede our relationship with God.

**Challenge** learners in their daily lives to seek to know God more fully and intimately through studying Scripture and prayer**.**

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Point out** that just as Jesus chose the woman, Jairus’s daughter, and Simon of Cyrene for a transforming relationship with Him, so He chooses us.

**Close in prayer, asking** that learners will embrace their relationship with God and will seek to more fully know Him.

After the Session

