

Small Group Discussion Guide

Rebooting Hope: For the week of December 12 - 18, 2021

Main Thought and Scriptures:

(Break into groups of 3-4. Discuss for 30-40 minutes.)

Faith and hope are distinct yet related. Hope is faith for what God will do in the future. Faith is what can turn future hope into present reality. Without faith, there is no hope, and without hope, there is no true faith. As believers, we are not immune to losing faith and hope during life's difficulties. So how do we reboot our hope? We discover three ways from Mark 5:25-34.

"And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸For she said, 'If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.' ²⁹And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my garments?' ³¹And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, "Who touched me?"' ³²And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴And he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'" (Mark 5:25-34 ESV)

People seek hope and turn to God most while in pain.

- This woman looked for hope and healing in various doctors, but nothing helped. The attempted cures only made her worse. She had given up on hope.
- Often in life, suffering and disappointment tend to redirect our focus from what man can do to what God can do. How we reset this focus will determine how our future is formed.

Hope accompanied by action can produce faith for new beginnings.

- This woman had been told stories of the miracles of Jesus, and hope rebooted in her.
- The potential began with an inner thought, the inner thought became an audible word, and the audible word became a tangible action. She had concluded, "If I do something, He'll do something."

Faith expressed through action captures God's attention.

- This woman pushed through the crowds and reached out to touch Jesus, and instantly her flow of blood ceased, and she was healed.
- Why did this happen? The woman's response of faith moved Jesus. Her redirection of hope resulted in a divine connection to Him.
- Scripture says faith without works is dead. That's because genuine faith does something. This woman did something and it paved the way for a healthy future.

Discussion Questions: *(Select those that best apply.)*

- What stands out to you from the main thought and scriptures above or from the weekend message?
- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current level of faith and/or hope? Explain.
- Where do you need to reframe your thoughts, words, and actions regarding the future?
- What is one practical takeaway from this discussion that you can apply to your life?

Prayer: *(10 minutes)*

- Pray for faith and hope to result in steps of obedience.
- Pray for someone by name that you can share God's hope with this holiday season.

Invite someone to Christmas at Pearlside

Christmas is meant to be a time for us to celebrate the birth of Jesus. All too often, that important message is lost in all the noise of this time of year. The best part of the season isn't wrapped but trapped beneath the chaos and clutter. Let's discover the Christ in Christmas together!

Service information and digital invites can be found at **pearlside.org/christmas**.