

# EPIC

*A journey through the Gospel of Mark*

## **WEEK 6** **STUDY GUIDE**



**CENTRAL**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH



## MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022

**Read:** Mark 5:21-42

**Scripture Verse:** *“Then a man named Jairus came. He was a synagogue ruler. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet. He begged Jesus, “Please come. My little daughter is dying. Place your hands on her to heal her. Then she will live.”* –Mark 5:22-23

### Today’s Thought:

The death of a child is never something a parent thinks about or expects, but unfortunately, it happens. The death of a child can be a profound and complicated loss that can create complex challenges for both parents and family members alike. This kind of experience comes with various emotions ranging from anger to guilt and can take years to process. Thankfully, I have never had to experience such a loss personally, but I’ve had close friends and work associates that I’ve had to stand by when they lost a son or daughter. In today’s text, Mark shares a parent’s story about losing a daughter and who he turned to when there was nothing left he could do.

Mark tells us that upon returning from the other side of the lake, Jesus and his disciples are greeted by a vast crowd. The word about Jesus and his miracles had spread quickly, and many came to see Him wherever he would go. On this particular day, Jesus is greeted by a man named Jarius. He was the head of the local synagogue and was responsible for all that went on there. He was well-respected and was most likely a man of great wealth but on that day required something money could not buy. Jarius’ daughter was dying, and there was nothing any human could do for her. No doubt Jesus’ reputation for healing had gotten to Jarius, who believed Jesus’ power could heal and save his daughter.

Standing anxiously in the crowd that greeted Jesus and the disciples was Jarius. This parent, who was a significant man within that culture, upon recognizing Jesus publicly, fell humbly at his feet, pleading for Jesus to help with his personal need. Listening intently, Jesus agreed to go with Jarius to his home. As they begin the journey, the men are delayed by the size of the crowd. As they are working their way through the group, a message gets to Jarius that his daughter has died. Upon arrival, mourners are dancing and wailing in despair at the death, but Jesus sends them away, telling them the girl is only sleeping. Not giving this father time to start grieving, Jesus encourages him to have faith and continues into the house. Upon entering the girl’s room, Jesus speaks to

her in Aramaic, "Talitha, koum!"--'Little lamb, get up!' Instantly, she gets up and walks around, and is hungry.

Although we all have different levels of faith, Jesus responds to our faith regardless of how small it might be. When we place our faith in Jesus and believe He shares His power with us, which always makes things happen. It is one thing for us to crowd around and push to get close to Jesus, but it is another to place our complete trust in Him. I am sure many others were in the crowd that day, pressing up against Jesus but experienced nothing of His power because they did not have faith. The next time you find yourself with your back against the wall, place your faith in Jesus and ask Him for help.

- When have you faced a time when there was nothing else you could do but seek help?
- Why do you think Jarius turned to Jesus for help?
- How hard do you think it was for Jarius, an important man, to publicly fall at the feet of Jesus?
- How do you think you would have responded to Jesus?
- Do you think Jesus knew there would be a delay? Why do you think he allowed for it?
- Has Jesus ever delayed answering any of your prayers? Explain.

**Further Reading:** Matthew 9:18-19

## TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022

**Read:** Mark 5:21-42

**Scripture Verse:** *"A woman was there who had a sickness that made her bleed. It had lasted for 12 years."* -Mark 5:25

### Today's Thought:

In 2016, a miracle happened. For the first time in my lifetime, my team had won a world championship! Growing up in Ohio as a Cleveland fan, you know the meaning of misery and loss, but are always optimistic for "next year." 2016 was the year of "next year," as the Cavaliers pulled off one of the most remarkable feats in NBA history down three games to one in their best of seven series they came back to win four games to three and captured the coveted trophy! After the big win, the city of Cleveland hosted a championship parade for the team and all their fans. I drove all night to get home to be at the parade of over 1 million fans! I got downtown early that morning and worked my way to an excellent spot to watch the parade of players and coaches ride by on floats and cars. The crowd continued to grow throughout the morning. By the time the parade started the crowd was so large we were all standing body-to-body, there was nowhere to move, but nobody cared on this day because our team had finally won!

It must have been similar for Jesus that day as he and his disciples exited their boat on the west side of Lake Galilee. As Jesus was walking toward town, a large crowd had gathered to see him. They were excited to see Jesus, and many had come, including an unnamed woman suffering from a bleeding disorder. The group that day was body to body, making it virtually impossible to move without touching someone else. Mark doesn't give us many details surrounding this woman in the crowd, but there are a few we should know. She had suffered from chronic hemorrhaging for 12 years which made her ritually unclean and unable to be at social gatherings. She had heard about Jesus' power which sparked her faith to risk the crowds to see if she could get a touch of his clothes and be healed. Risking everything, which wasn't much because she had spent her last cent on doctors who couldn't help her, she made her way toward Jesus.

Have you ever found yourself in a situation like this woman? You have tried everything you know to fix the problem. You have spoken with or visited every expert and professional you can find for answers, but you can find no solutions to your issue. For the unknown woman, the prob-

lem was blood, being unclean, and not being able to have social contact with other humans. She might as well have been a leper. And as I read her story and the separation her uncleanness caused; I think of my uncleanness. It's not from a blood disease but the dirtiness of sin that pollutes your life and mine. Jesus would ultimately heal and cleanse this woman from her issue with blood and yet, ironically, would cleanse us with the blood of His Son, washing away our sins! Our sin makes us unclean and separates us from a perfect, sinless God. And it is by our faith we are made clean just as it was for this woman. Go and be healthy!

- Why were the large crowds continually showing up where Jesus was?
- What do you think was going through the mind of this woman that day?
- How do you think you would have dealt with her situation? The same? Different?
- When have you taken a huge risk for your faith?
- What is the significance of the blood for our salvation?

**Further Reading:** Luke 8:43-48

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

**Read:** Mark 5:21-42

**Scripture Verse:** *"Then she heard about Jesus. She came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes. She thought, 'I just need to touch his clothes. Then I will be healed.'" - Mark 5:27-28*

### Today's Thought:

Mark has just shared two stories with us concerning uncleanness. First, we're told of an important man's daughter who was dying, and second, about a woman afflicted with a bleeding disorder. Are these two stories linked in any way that would give us pause? I say yes. And the link appears to answer the disciples' earlier question, "Who is this man?" In these two narratives, we can see the breathtaking power of Jesus' authority over nature, ultimately confirming his identity as the Son of God, which is the main theme of Mark's entire book.

The clear connection we observe from the stories is this theme of "uncleanness." This theme even reaches back to the previous passage of Jesus' healing of the demon-possessed man. Being seen as unclean in that culture was a big deal, and their traditions contained many rules about handling it. No one would have gone out of their way to have contact with anyone considered to be unclean. Yet, Jesus, who is to be our example, was more than willing to have contact with a woman with a bleeding disorder and with a dead girl. However, we shouldn't take from this narrative that Jesus was in any way dismissing or being casual about the Jewish purity Laws, but know that it is Jesus who has come to make the unclean, clean.

In both circumstances, we see Jesus willfully and sympathetically reach out over the traditions of man, in love, to make what is unclean clean. When touched by His hand or by His spoken Word, anything unclean was made clean. The same is true with our uncleanness, which is our sin. Jesus, by His own will and choice, came to make what was sinful (humanity) clean by his blood. When we place our faith (allegiance) in Christ, it is our appeal to rely on Him for our healing, which comes by his death on the cross. In the wonder of the resurrection is found the completed work of Jesus done for you and me!

- How does the theme of "uncleanness" connect us to the story?
- What is it about these narratives that answers the disciples' question?

- What do we learn about Jesus in these stories?
- What do the conclusions of these stories do for your faith?

**Further Reading:** Matthew 9:22

## THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

**Read:** Mark 5:21-42

**Scripture Verse:** *"...He told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid. Just believe."* - Mark 5:36b

### Today's Thought:

Many of us have probably come across one of those dreaded situations when we have to ask for help. It's not easy to ask for help because we somehow think it makes us inferior, stupid, or uninformed. Although I would consider myself college-educated and somewhat informed when it comes to computers, this is an area I frequently must ask for help, and it's usually from a young person. Sure, I know how to turn it on and do a few things, but there are times when I save stuff and then can't find it minutes later. I have to ask for help. Or, when it comes to sharing documents with others via the web, I generally have to ask for help. Thankfully, most times, those I ask are gracious and helpful.

Just as it is sometimes hard for us to ask for help, I think it was hard for Jarius to ask Jesus for help, too. Here is a highly respected, influential synagogue leader who had to ask for help publicly. And this was at a time when most religious leaders were opposed to Jesus and would not approve the ask. Jesus had angered many scribes and Pharisees by what he was doing and teaching. But, out of desperation, Jarius, as many of us would have done as well, went to Jesus. He may well lose a lot of friends, but it would seem by the story he was willing to do anything to save his dying daughter.

Having made up his mind, Jarius went to Jesus, fell at his feet, and begged him to come to his house to save his daughter. Jesus agreed to go. While in route, a woman in need had caused a delay in Jesus getting to the dying girl. Jesus had stopped to help this poor woman. As Jarius was waiting for Jesus, he received a message from home that his daughter was dead, no need to bother Jesus anymore. Overhearing the news, Jesus tells Jarius don't listen to them, no need to be afraid, only believe. Never in the text do we even assume that Jarius became upset or stressed by the news of his daughter's death. I think what's important for us to see here is that even while helping the woman, Jesus has Jarius on his mind and immediately provides this dad with comfort and peace, letting him know, "I got this, it's going to be ok."

Mark paints us a beautiful portrait of Jesus' love in both stories. It is incredible to watch as Jesus led both the woman and Jarius to joy-

ful victory by placing their trust and hope in Him. From Jarius, we find tremendous faith during a perceived tragedy. It is the same in our lives when we find ourselves in difficult situations and afraid to ask God for help. We can be assured that we do not have to be scared but only believe. For Jarius, when he came to Jesus, he had a certain amount of faith, but after seeing what Jesus did for the woman, his faith became even greater! In both cases, Jesus' words made all the difference.

We have all had those moments of doubt when we are overwhelmed with the circumstances of life. And it can seem during those times that God has been delayed in getting to us for the help we ask for and need, and we wonder why. But I can tell you this when we need that extra word of encouragement that strengthens our faith, we will find it when we take the time to read His Word and pray.

- What are some examples of times when you have had to ask for help?
- Why do you think it is so hard for you to ask for help?
- What were some of the reasons Jarius probably had trouble asking Jesus for help?
- How did the words of Jesus make the difference for Jarius? The woman?
- Where do we go today to find the help we need to strengthen our faith?

**Further Reading:** Proverbs 3:5-6

## FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022

**Read:** Mark 5:21-42

**Scripture Verse:** *"But they laughed at him."* – Mark 5:40

### Today's Thought:

Laughter is one of those things that is supposed to make us happy and relieve our stress. No one wants to be laughed at, whether publicly or privately. In the middle of all that roaring laughter, you have probably heard the "infamous" phrase, "we're not laughing at you, we're laughing with you." Hopefully, that's the case, but inside you're thinking, "yeah, right." It can often feel like ridicule or jeering when one laughs at another. And that was the case outside Jarius' house toward Jesus.

Jesus and Jarius had stopped and were dealing with the woman with the blood disorder when they got word from Jarius' home that his little girl had died. Jesus told him not to be afraid, just believe, and they continued their way to his house. Upon arrival, they found a great commotion outside the house where mourners were wailing out of control. Jesus said to them, "what is going on? Why all the fuss? The girl isn't dead; she is only sleeping." The crowd, wailing out of control moments ago, stopped and, in their unbelief, laughed at Jesus' words and ridiculed him.

There is more to the message here than we shouldn't laugh and ridicule others. In this moment of laughter, Jesus teaches us a great lesson. He wants us to see hope in these circumstances. The people at Jarius' house believed that the girl was dead, and that death was the final destiny. However, Jesus refused to treat the girl's death as final. For true believers, the words "too late," are never part of our vocabulary. With Christ, there is always hope! God is always able to redeem the most hopeless situations in life. All we must do is believe. Our faith causes us to appeal to Jesus and rely on Him. Faith brings us to Jesus, and it is Jesus who works wonders in our lives.

- Why do you think Jarius was unphased by the message from home?
- How can laughter become dangerous?
- What do you think caused the mourners to stop and laugh at Jesus' words?
- Why do some people believe that death is their final destiny?

- Why is death not a threat to those who put their faith and trust in Jesus?

**Further Reading:** John 14:1-4, 6.

# NOTES







[centralwired.com](http://centralwired.com)