



STUDY 4

AN EMBARRASSING PROBLEM

Some health problems are downright embarrassing, and patients may naturally be shy about revealing their physical condition to others. In this story, Jesus is not shy about discussing a **vulnerable** problem in public, but how he intervenes may surprise you.

What are your favorite ways of receiving love and care? Or share a story when someone cared for you well.

BACKGROUND

In biblical times, blood was considered a source of ritual impurity and being in contact with blood could make a person “unclean” or “impure” in the eyes of the law, particularly in the Old Testament. This concept of cleanliness and impurity was deeply tied to the holiness code found in Leviticus, one of the books of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible).

READ MARK 5:25-34 (NIV)

²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

³¹ “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.

³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Scripture quotations taken from *The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®*
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ASSESSMENT

- **Given the background information about blood,** what do you think this woman's life was like before she met Jesus? **How might people and society have treated her?**
- What surprises you about Jesus in this story? What do you think it meant for this woman to hear, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering"?
- **What strikes you as unique about the way Jesus cares for this woman?** What attributes of Jesus' care would you like to model in your own care for others?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- This woman was subject to bleeding for 12 years! What chronic issues in your life do you want to place at Jesus' feet? What could be keeping you from approaching him? Pray with another person this week for courage to approach Jesus and entrust your life into his care.
- **Spend time in prayer this week, ask Jesus - who is someone in your life that could use care?**



MY RESPONSES

TYPE YOUR RESPONSES INTO THIS BOX!

CALL TO FAITH

A call to faith is an intentional invitation at your NCF meeting for students and nurses to respond to Jesus in several ways, including an invitation to follow him for the first time. At some point during the 8-week Bible study series, make space for a clear call to faith—inviting participants to respond to the gospel. Trust God’s leading on when and how, and feel free to extend the invitation more than once as the Spirit prompts.

BEFORE

PRAY: Ask God to move in powerful ways and pray that God will prepare hearts to respond to him.

PREPARE: Calls to faith are not something we do every meeting; practicing what you want to say can be helpful, including how you’ll transition to the response and connect it to the passage and your personal story during your meeting.

DURING

SET UP: Say something like: “As we close our discussion today, I want to create a space for us to respond to God and the hope he offers us through Jesus. We are all on a journey with Him; some of us have been with Him for a long time; we have said yes to Jesus and accepted His death on the cross as our punishment for our wrongdoing. Some of us are still curious about Jesus, and we fall everywhere in between. Tonight, we will make space for you to identify where you are in your journey with Jesus and take the next step.”

PRAY: Open in prayer, making room for silence. Ask your participants to prayerfully consider the responses on their card and choose one. End in prayer.

RESPONSE: Print the response card at the end of this bible study. Have one card printed for each person attending.

SHARE: Have people share their responses. Share yours first to break the ice.

CELEBRATE those who’ve decided to follow Jesus!

AFTER

Connect with each person about what they shared on their response card that they turned into you and invite them to take the next step.

Spend a few minutes in silence as you determine how Jesus is leading you to respond. Check one:

- ☐ **Commit my life**
I have decided to become a follower of Jesus.
- ☐ **Renew my faith**
I am already a follower of Jesus but have given Him a new area of my life. (vocation, relationships, etc.)
- ☐ **Lead with Jesus**
Jesus is calling me to take a risk for him. I am committing to: _____.
- ☐ **Seek the truth**
I am not ready to commit my life to Jesus but would like to talk with someone to learn more about Him.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



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