



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Three

This week we heard another breaking open story from the Bible. Pastor Angela shared the story of the woman who had been suffering from a condition that caused her to bleed. This bleeding made her “unclean” according to the customs of her time. In her desperation she reached out to Jesus. The kind of desperation she displayed can help us cut through our own drama.

During these weeks leading up to Easter, we are intentionally seeking a deeper awareness of God. To help with that, you are invited to prepare your heart for Easter by taking part in weekly prayer and journaling using the Breaking Open Journal. [Download it today!](#)

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this prayer written by spiritual director Sally Sharpe:

Jesus, we live in a noisy world, and we confess that we're easily swept up into the drama. Give each of us an undivided heart that yearns for you most of all. Help us to exchange drama over issues for desperation for you, so that our passion draws others to you. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: MARK 5.25-29

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.

- In a moment of true desperation, the woman in Mark 5 risked everything to touch the clothes of Jesus. It changed her life. We often build defenses that keep us from reaching for Jesus out of desperation. What keeps you from reaching out for what you need from Jesus?
- *As you pray, imagine your hands grasping for Jesus as he comes near. What are you desperate for?*

TUESDAY: MARK 5.30-31

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?' "*

- Power went out of Jesus because of an act of desperation. The healing that Jesus instantly provided for her cost him something—he felt it. Sometimes healing takes place in the middle of a crowd, with the chaos of life swirling around. The woman's desperation cut through the noise and the bustle of the crowd. Have you ever experienced the presence of Jesus—the peace of Christ—even though everything else was swirling out of control?
- *Pray for the awareness of Jesus, and for his awareness of you, no matter what you are facing today.*

WEDNESDAY: MARK 5.32-34

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."*

- Jesus went back for the real win. Yes, the woman had been healed already, but it was important for Jesus that she knew it was her faith that allowed for this healing. If you've ever been relieved from real suffering, you might know the temptation to move on quickly past it. The freedom from suffering sparked by a moment of desperation can drive us deeper into a life of faithfulness.
- *Thank God for the grace to grow deeper in faith.*

THURSDAY: ROMANS 15.13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Desperation is a combination of weakness and trust. It may look like a last ditch effort or a hail Mary but when we believe that Jesus can change our life we are ready to break open and be made new. What does it look like to overflow with hope? Have you ever experienced that?
- *Pray for joy and peace to fill your heart and impact your steps today.*

FRIDAY: LAMENTATIONS 3.17-18, 21-22

I have been deprived of peace;

I have forgotten what prosperity is.

¹⁸ *So I say, "My splendor is gone
and all that I had hoped from the LORD."*

Yet this I call to mind

and therefore I have hope:

²² *Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.*

- These words could have just as easily been spoken by the woman in Mark 5. The writer of Lamentations learned to recall that his hope is in the God who is full of compassion and mercy—even when the world is less than friendly. What helps you “call to mind” God’s unfailing compassion for you?
- *Pray these words with confidence “therefore I have hope: because of the Lord’s great love I am not consumed.”*

SATURDAY: PSALM 62.1-2,

Truly my soul finds rest in God;

my salvation comes from him.

² *Truly he is my rock and my salvation;*

he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

Yes, my soul, find rest in God;

my hope comes from him.

⁶ *Truly he is my rock and my salvation;*

he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

⁷ *My salvation and my honor depend on God;*

he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

⁸ *Trust in him at all times, you people;*

pour out your hearts to him,

for God is our refuge.

- Sometimes the Psalms might seem repetitive. That’s intentional. In the same way we sing what is true in worship together, we read and proclaim the truth about who God is. Why does it need to be repeated that our rest is in God? That God is our rock and refuge?
- *As you pray, tell God who He is to you.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Pastor Angela made the profound statement that the desperation of the hemorrhaging woman in Mark 5 broke out of her life of isolation. We've all experienced some degree of isolation in the last year. What moments have led you to break out of isolation? How have you found belonging in community through Jesus?