

Imperfect #4
Expressions of Simple Faith

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 8:40–56

Discussion Questions

1. If a loved one is suffering from an illness, how far would you be willing to go (what are you willing to do) for him or her to be healed?
2. Read Luke 8:40-56. During this time, Jesus was the most popular teacher. Everywhere He went, throngs of people would welcome Him. Some came to listen; some came to see Him perform miracles, which authenticated His message to the people. Who was Jairus? What did he desperately want Jesus to do (v.41-42)? Have you ever wanted something so badly that you had to beg to get it? What would make you do it?
3. Jesus teaches that we should be child-like in our faith. What does this simple expression of trust in God look like? How do we cultivate child-like faith so that we can reach out to the imperfect, lost, and unbelieving world, that they, too, can be made perfect in Christ?
4. Our passage shows that a simple faith knows no protocol. More often than not, Christians tend to put up barriers that hinder non-Christians from coming to God. What kind of protocols or conduct/behaviors may a Christian be guilty of doing that would hinder someone from coming to Christ? How about you?
5. On His way to Jairus' home, Jesus had a crowd of people following Him, almost crushing Him in their zeal to touch Him. Who came behind Him to touch the edge of His cloak? Why did the woman do it (v. 42b-44)? How did Jesus recognize that someone had been cured (v. 45-46)? Describe the woman's reaction to being discovered (v. 47). Does this biblical account mean that touching something like religious relics could heal a person who is sick? According to Jesus, what cured this woman (v. 48)? What can you learn from this woman's simple faith? Do you think there is a proper way or protocol to approach Jesus?
6. Simple faith acknowledges Jesus' claims (v. 48). It is simply believing that Jesus is who He says He is. Why does the intellectual knowledge of Jesus not save a person? What are the claims Jesus makes about Himself that are so important to share with an unbelieving person?
7. A common problem in Christian faith is that we pray "in faith," but what we really pray for is the result. Does simple faith mean that you will always get what you want? Share with the group about a time when God didn't answer your prayers the way you wanted Him to do. Did it make you trust God more or less? Examine yourself. Is your faith in Jesus Christ based on His claims of who He is and what He can do, or is it based on the results?
8. Thirdly, simple faith affirms the ability of Jesus. While Jesus was still speaking with the woman, someone from the house of Jairus came to tell Jairus that his daughter had died. How did Jesus comfort Jairus (v. 49-50)? Jesus spoke of assurance ("do not be afraid"), action ("believe") and ability ("she will be made well"). Which of these is unique to Jesus? Why? Discuss the order of events inside Jairus' house (v. 53-56). What was Jesus's instruction to the parents after the girl was raised up (v. 56)? What does unbelief in God's ability imply?

Walk

Simple faith is having a heart that comes to know Jesus. It doesn't know protocol, but acknowledges Jesus' claims and His ability. It is not necessarily how you are assured, nor is it the action taken. It is in how you believe in the ability of Christ to save you. Simple faith is the foundation stone that affirms that Jesus has the ability to do what He claims He can do. This is the faith that assures our standing before Him and the kind of faith that He commends. How do you plan to share this truth to the people around you who need to hear it?

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for making it that simple to come to You: with a simple acceptance of what I am, and simple acceptance of who You are. I sometimes make it more complicated than it actually is, but I know I am a sinner, and that I need a Savior, and that Savior is Your Son Jesus Christ. Thank You for the gift of forgiveness and salvation. Give me the ability to keep a child-like faith that tells others about the God who loves them. May my actions encourage unbelievers to believe. Keep me from putting up barriers that may hinder people to come to You. Give me wisdom, give me strength, give me eyes that see Your hand at work in my life every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.