



**SERMON STUDY GUIDE**  
For the sermon preached on  
1/3/2021:  
“Faith Enough”  
Luke 8:40-47

**How to use the Study Guide During Virtual Online Group Meetings**

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together, and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). The “One” is to spend time in study. As our virtual season continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Tim Ghali and Pastor Rachel Keeler on behalf of the Group Life Team

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**For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”**

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage. A “check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

This is the first week of our new winter teaching series, “Finite Disappointment, Infinite Hope,” and Pastor Bryan preached a message out of Luke 8, titled “Faith Enough.”

**Q** – To start our reflections on disappointment and hope, let’s share how we’re feeling about flipping the calendar to a new year. Are there disappointments from 2020 that are still weighing heavily on you? What are some things you feel hopeful about as we look to the year to come?

**Q** – The passage begins with the story of Jairus: “Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come to his house, because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying” (Luke 8:41-42a). Pastor Bryan remarked that in all likelihood, Jairus and his family had tried all the usual things—doctors, medicine—to help his daughter get better, but nothing had worked, “so he brings his disappointment to Jesus and asks for help.”

- What is your normal reaction to being disappointed?
- Do you typically bring your disappointments to Jesus and ask for help? If so, what usually happens when you do? What do you think sometimes prevents us from doing this?

**Q** – In the next part of the passage, we hear about a woman who had suffered for twelve years with a bleeding disorder. In Mark’s version of the story, he specifically tells us that she had tried all the usual things: “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” (Mark 5:26).

- What are some of the disappointments that illness and injury can bring with them?
- Who do you know who is currently dealing with disappointment related to illness or injury? How might you minister to them?

**Q** – Pastor Bryan talked about how people often say, “If you have enough faith, you, or the one you’re praying for, will be healed.”

- What are some of the difficulties with this way of thinking?

**Q** – Toward the end of the sermon, Pastor Bryan noted that we can turn to God with however little or much faith we have at any given moment. Speaking about the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he said: “He didn’t have perfect faith, none of us do, but he had *enough* faith. Enough to believe that the disappointments of life are finite.”

- How can knowing that the disappointments of this life are finite help us to work through them?
- The title of this sermon is “Faith Enough.” What does the idea of “enough faith” mean to you right now?

Let’s pray together, thanking God for the gift of life, for the minds and bodies He has given us, and asking the Lord for protection for those who are well; for healing for those who are sick; for courage and strength for medical professionals; for comfort and peace for the dying and those who have lost loved ones; and that vaccines might be effective in bringing an end to this pandemic.