

# THROUGH *her eyes*



## Forever Changed Elaine Fischer

### Focus

When we have an encounter with Jesus, our lives are changed forever. We must intentionally pursue Jesus and reach out to Him in faith. He will change our perspective, our relationship with Him, and our future as a son or daughter of the King.

### Fun

Print out a few cognitive illusions (search the Internet if needed) and pass them around as your group members arrive. These are pictures that can look like two different things, depending on your perspective. Once your group starts, discuss each of the pictures and their illusions. Take a poll of how many see one illusion or the other. If there is a common thread between ages or men and women, ask why each would have a different perspective.

### Review

Key Scriptures: Luke 8:40–50; Mark 5:27; Leviticus 15:25–27

- **Our perspective is forever changed when we encounter Jesus.**  
Each person in this passage had a different perspective of Jesus. The crowd saw Him as a spiritual figure they wanted to see for themselves. The disciples saw Jesus stop and take time with all kinds of people and witnessed His power to take care of all of their needs. The woman with an issue of blood had her perspective of Jesus changed from a healer to *her* Healer, and she was declared His daughter. When we purposely seek out the Savior, He will show us who He is and who we are as His children. Our perspective changes.
- **Our relationship is forever changed when we encounter Jesus.**  
God desires to have a relationship with us. He is fully aware of our needs and wants to have daily encounters with us. Instead of simply being near Jesus or around Him, He wants us to deliberately reach out to Him in faith. The woman's faith in Jesus was reason for her restoration. Our relationship with Jesus can change from that of a sinner to His accepted child that receives blessing and peace.
- **Our future is forever changed when we encounter Jesus.**  
The woman was ceremonially unclean and seen as an outcast but became *His* daughter. Because of our heavenly Father's authority and glory, we have a story to tell. We have people who will want to talk with us because of our heavenly Father. They will see the changes and peace we portray as a result of our

encounters with Jesus.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** People are creatures of habit. Most people will tend to sit in the same place when they attend church, and you've probably noticed the same thing in your small group. Consider having a "New Seat Day" at least once a semester. As people arrive, let them know you are all trying something different today and to sit in a seat they have not sat in before. People will interact with others they may not have otherwise. It opens them up to make new friends and not be as self-focused.

## Discuss

1. Read Luke 8:46. In what ways can a person be deliberate in their pursuit of Jesus? Why might a person be hesitant to reach out to Him?
2. Jesus asked the woman to publically admit her actions. Why does the Lord ask us to confess publicly that we have accepted the Lord as Savior?
3. What does the title of "son" or "daughter" imply? What does it mean to you to be called His son or His daughter?
4. People will be attracted to our peace when we have encountered the Savior. Take time this week to write your story down in three or four sentences and ask the Lord to prepare you for future conversations about your encounters with Jesus.
5. *Optional:* Read Mark 5:26. If you are in the same situation as the woman in our message and are desperately seeking healing from Jesus for you or someone in your family, will you raise your hand? Would it be okay with you if the rest of the group prayed for you right now? *Gather around that person and allow group members to pray for those who have need.*

## Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- The Lord wants us to be deliberate and intentional in our pursuit of Jesus with faith that He can heal.
- It is our faith, and not our efforts, that will bring about healing.
- When we have an encounter with Jesus, He becomes personal to us and gives us a new identity.
- Our future is one as a son or daughter of the Most High King blessed with His peace.

## Prayer

Lord, thank You for your healing touch. Give us courage and the faith to reach out to You as your sons and daughters. We thank You for Your blessing and peace. You are a loving Father, and we give You honor, glory, and praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**New Leader Tip\*** Gateway Groups are one of the key places for connection within the church. People connect with the Lord and with other believers in a small group. Don't assume that people in your group are engaged and connected if they are outgoing and friendly. Make it a habit to reach out with a note or email to touch base when anyone is gone. If a new person attends, reach out to them as well to give them a personal welcome within a week after their visit.