



DWELLING IN THE WORD

A devotional resource for committees & teams

Mark 5:24-34 (NRSV)

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Romans 8:26-27 (NRSV)

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Philippians 4:4-6 (NRSV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1. Provide pencils/pens and a copy of this handout to each team member.

2. Read aloud a Scripture passage from the suggestions to the left. Invite listeners to **circle words or phrases** that they notice as the Scripture is read.

3. Allow a few moments of silence for quiet reflection. Then, **share** your observations with each other.

4. If time, invite those present to **respond** to one or more of these questions:

* How might people from other cultures and generations hear this passage?

* Where and when was this passage written? What do we know about this part of the ancient world? About the author?

* What do I notice about the language, repetition, dialogue and descriptions?

* What stories or memories does this passage stir in me?

5. Pause for prayer, giving thanks for God's word shared here today.

What other theme would you like to consider?

Which Scripture verses could you read?

What questions might you ask?

