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*Transforming lives
as the hands and feet of Christ*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

June 30 - July 1

“What’s the Point?”

By Rev. Eric Moeller

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It’s your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text

Mark 5:21-43; <https://bit.ly/2MIFAsd>

Big Ideas Raised

- We faithful people pray for miracles that do not happen in accordance with our wishes. This being the case, what are we to make of this Gospel story that seems to say your faith will make you well?
- Perhaps the order of silence for the witnesses to the girl’s resurrection is there to shift our focus away from the healings themselves, and rather to the relationships initiated in the text.
- The faith of Christ revealed in his life was that of seeking to bring us into right relationship with God, and right relationship with one another. Righteousness in other words. And these right relationships create wholeness.
- When Jairus and the woman fell before Jesus, they were initiating a relationship with him, acknowledging and submitting to his Lordship. They took risks in doing so, and Jesus in turn took risks to be in relationship with them, but both had their fears alleviated in the initiation of that relationship, and turning to Jesus.
- Our faith, too, is about living in right relationship with God, one another, and our neighbors, even when it’s risky. Prayer is a part of that relationship. When we stay grounded in that relationship, though the outcomes may not change, we are changed and able to remain grounded in the goodness of God, even in trying circumstances. When we take the risk of putting our lives under the Lordship of Christ and walk in his way of faith that stops at nothing to share God’s love with all people to bring wholeness, we do so knowing there is nothing to fear, for the Lord of Life guides and sustains us. Such faith truly, somehow, does make us well.

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- There is a lot of mystery when it comes to the workings of God. Sometimes outright miracles do seem to happen. Have you ever witnessed or heard of something miraculous?
- Have you ever gone through something, praying for a certain miracle, and found that the miracle you received was unexpected?
- Relationships are central to this text, and truly to our faith. How do you maintain your relationship with God? How do you speak with God, and how do you listen?
- Has your faith ever caused you to take a risk? Are there ways you may feel called by God now to take risks?

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend’s sermon, please visit:

<https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>