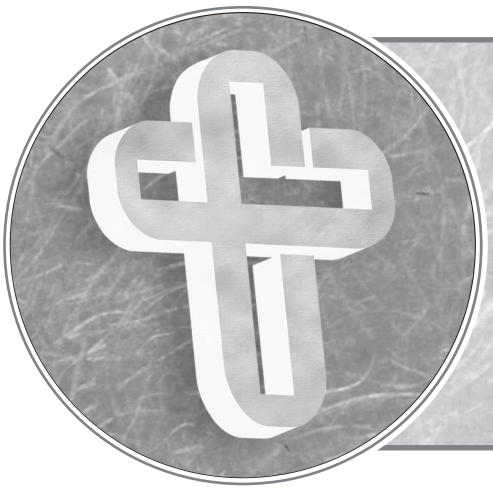


CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS
JULY 05 2025

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Scripture Story: Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages* (or *Humble Hero*), chapter 36.
Key Text: Mark 5:27-29.

PREPARING TO TEACH

I. SYNOPSIS

The story of the woman with the issue of blood and Jairus's daughter links the personal tragedies of two unlikely people. The first is a woman with a socially alienating illness. She would have been isolated, left out of all celebrations, gatherings, worships, and other social events. The second is a synagogue official, respected and revered. Yet despite his privileged position, his little girl is dying and he is powerless over the situation. Both people have breaking hearts, and Jesus is the only answer.

Throughout the Bible, God promises that He will care for the lonely and grieving. Grief and loneliness can be so overwhelming and overpowering that only God can heal and bring comfort. He always does! God is our companion and friend, but He also brings other people into our lives. The ultimate promise is that we will see our loved ones again in heaven, and sadness and tears will be no more.

Ellen White states in chapter 36 of *The Desire of Ages* that God wants our praise to be "marked by our own individuality." For teens, individuality can often mean ostracism and loneliness. However, God created us to be unique and He wants us to be exactly who He intended us to be. Students will explore how to use their own unique individuality to bring glory to God and comfort to others.

II. TARGET

The students will:

- Understand that their own uniqueness is a gift from God. *(Know)*
- Sense a responsibility toward the lonely and grieving. *(Feel)*
- Choose to turn to God with their loneliness and be the answer to other people's prayers. *(Respond)*

III. EXPLORE

The Church, Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, no. 12: "The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to humanity, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word revealed in the Scriptures. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:1-3; Exod. 19:3-7; Matt.

16:13-20; 18:18; 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; 7:38; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9.)"

TEACHING

I. GETTING STARTED

Activity

Refer the students to the What Do You Think? *section of their lesson. After they have completed it, discuss their responses.*

Invite the students to share one thing that makes them completely different from everyone else. Ask them to think of things that make people "weird" or not fit in. What is the difference between being unique and being socially unpopular? When someone doesn't fit in, what are their options? Is this fair? What is our Christian responsibility toward each other?

Illustration

Share this illustration in your own words:

In a large city, the school system had started a program to send teachers to hospitalized children to help them keep up with their schoolwork. One such teacher was sent for a small boy. She went around to his different teachers, asking what he would need to study while in the hospital. His language teacher said, "We are studying nouns and adverbs, and it would be very helpful if he could keep up so he doesn't fall behind."

The teacher took the books and made her way to the hospital. She didn't know the details of the accident, and when she was admitted into the room, she was horrified to see that the boy's body was covered in horrible burns.

Unnerved and embarrassed, the teacher blurted out, "I'm here to help you study nouns and adverbs!"

Obviously, the session was not productive and she hurried away after a few minutes. Guiltily, she returned to the hospital a couple of weeks later.

"What did you say to that boy?" a nurse asked her.

"I'm so sorry . . ." the teacher began. She was sure that her lack of sensitivity had done some horrible damage.

"No," the nurse said. "You don't understand. We were worried about that boy. He wasn't responding to treatment, and after your visit it was like he decided to live!"

When the boy explained later, he said, "They wouldn't send someone to teach nouns and adverbs to a dying boy, would they?"

II. TEACHING THE STORY

Bridge to the Story

Share the following in your own words:

Sometimes hope comes in the form of a person. The burned boy needed someone to believe he'd recover. He needed to be treated like he was "normal" for a change, and it made all the difference.

Loneliness and despair go hand in hand. We often don't understand how lonely people feel. Loneliness can come from a terrible tragedy that makes a person feel alone with their grief, or from being socially isolated and not included. Regardless of how overwhelming it might feel, Jesus offers hope.

Out of the Story for Teachers

After you read the Into the Story *section with your students, use the following in your own words to process it with them.*

- *Underline* the characters in this story.
- Which characters seem to be lonely, abandoned, or desperate? Who realizes it?
- *Circle* the words that denote emotion.
- How does each person seem to be feeling?
- *Draw* a rectangle around Jesus' actions.
- Besides working a miracle, what does Jesus give back to both Jairus and the woman with the issue of blood?
- What do these characters have in common?
- How do they differ?
- What do we learn about God through this story?

Use the following as more teachable passages that relate to today's story:

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: What is the basic human need explored in this passage? How does it relate to this story?
- Matthew 26:36-45: What were Jesus' human needs in this passage? What are His spiritual needs? Who does He turn to in order to fulfill His needs?

- Revelation 21:1-7: Jesus has the ultimate power over death. But He doesn't always choose to raise the dead now. What is our ultimate hope? What does God promise us until then?

Sharing Context and Background

Use the following information to shed more light on the story for your students. Share it in your own words.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the whole Bible sheds more light on the story. It is critical to remember that Jairus was an elite synagogue official. However, he was so desperate that he came to Jesus and petitioned Him as One much greater than he was. His faith was found in his desperation.

This is much like the woman with the issue of blood. Her illness was of a private nature. She didn't want to go declaring this particular problem in front of a group of people—especially men! She desired a private healing, so no one would know. However, if Jesus had not called attention to her, her community would not have known about her cure, either, and it would have taken much more embarrassment and infringement on her privacy to prove her healed.

This woman had spent all that she had on doctors. Jesus was her last chance at any kind of healing. She was not only sick and poverty-stricken; she was also ceremonially unclean.

Keep in mind that she would always be unclean until she stopped bleeding and was ritually washed. Anything she touched would become unclean. If she were married, she could not sleep with her husband, eat at the same table, eat from the same plate or

Tips for Top-Notch Teaching

Discussion Activities

Here are some stimulating ways to start discussions with teenagers:

- Draw on students' personal experiences.
- Ask students to reflect on their own culture and attitudes.
- Give students a concrete decision to make with their peers.
- Keep the conversation peer-centered—plenty of pair or small group collaboration.
- Keep to fairly short discussion activities (15 minutes) until you know what they like, and they feel relaxed enough with you to talk freely.
- Avoid asking discussion questions around the class; this puts them in the spotlight and causes potential embarrassment in front of friends. You also risk dominating the talk.*

* Taken from Clare Lavery, "Getting Teenagers to Talk," Teaching English, British Council, accessed September 16, 2020, https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/getting-teenagers-talk.

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Teaching From . . .

Refer your students to the other sections of their lesson.

- **Key Text**
  Invite the students to share the key text with the class if they have committed it to memory.
- **Flashlight**
  Read the Flashlight *statement, pointing out that most of the time it is from the commentary on this week's story found in the book* The Desire of Ages. *Ask what relationship they see between the statement and what they have just discussed from* Out of the Story.
- **Punch Lines**
  Point out to your students the verses listed in their lesson that relate to this week's story. Have them share the verse that speaks most directly to them and allow them to explain why they chose it.
- **Further Insight**
  Ask them how the quotes in Further Insight *convey the point of the story in this lesson.*

common pot, or be touched in any way. She could not go out in public. She could not attend feasts, gatherings, worships, or celebrations. She could not socialize. If any man touched her or anything she had touched, even unknowingly, he had to give a sacrifice for the offense. Not only was it inconvenient, but it could get expensive! For 12 years, she had been the walking dead.

Jairus, the synagogue official, would have been the opposite. He was one of the religious elite. He ruled a synagogue and held public respect. All the doctors would have been at his disposal, but like the woman with the issue of blood, they were obviously useless. He would have tried every other option before going to Jesus, and it shows his desperation that he would bow before Jesus and entreat so humbly. The *Matthew Henry Bible Commentary* suggests that the little girl was the family's darling. She seems to have been much loved, and the loss of her was obviously very painful.

III. CLOSING

Activity

Close with an activity and debrief it in your own words.

Ask each student to name two lonely people that they know or come in contact with during the week.

Then ask the students to name two characteristics, strengths, or qualities in themselves that they can use to help relieve someone else's loneliness. Share them with the group, and challenge them to use those ideas the following week.

Summary

Share the following thoughts in your own words:

The woman with the issue of blood and the synagogue official were both desperate. Both felt isolated in their pain and knew that they had only one hope left. Jesus reached out to these hurting people and worked miracles to reunite them with their loved ones and their community. God can heal loneliness and grief—we have only to go to Him. But He doesn't just help soothe the pain. God gives us people in our lives to build lasting relationships with, to fulfill that very human need for human contact. Ultimately, we are looking forward to the time when we are all in heaven and there will be no more loneliness or grief. The pain on this earth will not last. There is hope in the future. But most important, God brings us relief today through the companionship of other people. He wants to use us to be the answer to someone's prayer for comfort.



Remind the students about the reading plan that will take them through the inspired commentary of the Bible, the Conflict of the Ages series. The reading that goes with this lesson is *The Desire of Ages* (or *Humble Hero*),* chapter 36.

*A special adaptation, *Humble Hero*, has been created just for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press® Publishing Association. Get more info about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net.

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STUDENT LESSON

Scripture Story: Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56.
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keytext

"When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.' Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering."

(Mark 5:27-29, NIV)

flashlight

"Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. . . . Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347).

what do you think?

Every person is unique and different. Write down four things that make you uniquely "you."

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How are you different from every other person? Do you feel that these differences make you special? Do you feel that they cause you to be misunderstood? Do you enjoy being different, or do you wish you were like everyone else and "fit in"?

did you know?

God planned *where* you'd be born and where you'd live for His purpose. Your race and nationality are no accident. God left no detail to chance. He planned it all for *His* purpose. The Bible says, "From one man he made all the nations . . . ; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands" (Acts 17:26, NIV). Nothing in your life is arbitrary. It's all for a purpose.

INTO THE STORY

"When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, 'My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.' So Jesus went with him.

"A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 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. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.' Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

"At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched my clothes?'

"'You see the people crowding against you,' his disciples answered, 'and yet you can ask, "Who touched me?"'

"But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.'

"While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. 'Your daughter is dead,' they said. 'Why bother the teacher anymore?'

"Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, 'Don't be afraid; just believe.'

"He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him.

"After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, *'Talitha koum!'* (which means 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!'). Immediately the girl

stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat."

(Mark 5:21-43, NIV; italics in original)

OUT OF THE STORY

What has been the loneliest time of your life, and how did you deal with it?

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Who in this story might have felt lonely and cut off from others? Why?

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How might the synagogue ruler and the bleeding woman feel powerless in their particular situations?

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What would be worse: the grief and loneliness from a loved one who passed away or the loneliness from a life lived completely alone, shunned by society? Explain.

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What can we learn from this story about Jesus' power over loneliness and grief?

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punch lines

"God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing" **(Psalm 68:6, NIV).**

"Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted" **(Psalm 25:16, NIV).**

"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" **(Luke 5:16, NIV).**

"But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless" **(Psalm 10:14, NIV).**

"They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away" **(Isaiah 35:10, NIV).**

further insight

"To talk of religion in a casual way, to pray without soul hunger and living faith, avails nothing."

—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 347

"Human love may change, but Christ's love knows no change. When we cry to Him for help, His hand is stretched out to save."

—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 72

Sabbath

Read Psalm 139:13.

Everybody is completely unique. Your thoughts, your experiences, your strengths and challenges, are all your own. Look at these verses:

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27, NIV).

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13, NIV).

"This is what the LORD says—he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen" (Isaiah 44:2, NIV).

Why do you think that God created you the way He did? Think of the thing that frustrates you the most about yourself. Why do you think that God included that in the complete package?

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Sunday

Read Acts 10:34.

The woman with the bleeding problem and Jairus, the synagogue official, were two very different kinds of people. One was powerless and shunned by society because of her illness, and the other was powerful and influential because of his position. They had lived vastly different lives and had had completely different worries and experiences. However, both, in their desperation, turned to Jesus. What does Jesus do when we turn to Him? How did Jesus deal with their loneliness and grief? Why do you think that God created them to be the people He did? How do you think their encounters with Jesus might have changed their outlooks on life? How does our personal encounter with Jesus change us?

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Monday

Read Psalm 139:23, 24.

If a tractor-trailer hit you, would you be changed? An encounter with such a large vehicle could not leave you unchanged. How much more should we be changed by an encounter with the God of the universe? The woman with the problem with bleeding believed that only brushing the hem of Jesus' robe would heal her. What in your life needs to be healed by an encounter with Jesus?

Tuesday

Read Psalm 139:4.

Consider this quote: "Originality does not consist in saying what no one has ever said before, but in saying exactly what you think" (James Fitzjames Stephen).

Ellen White says that God wants our praise to be "marked by our own individuality." You can say it the way you feel it. You can talk the way you talk. What can you thank God for today that is perfectly unique to you?

Wednesday

Sometimes our individuality can make us feel separate from other people and misunderstood. How do these verses apply to you?

Psalm 68:6

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Luke 5:16

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Psalm 10:14

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Thursday

Read Psalm 30:5.

How can you, with the individuality that God created you with, connect with other people to help relieve their loneliness? How can you become "family" to someone who is lonely? Who in your life could be made happier if you took some notice of them?

Friday

Read Psalm 30:5.

Consider these:

"The nights of crying your eyes out give way to days of laughter" (King David, Psalm 30:5, *The Message*).

"Friendship multiplies the good of life and divides the evil. 'Tis the sole remedy against misfortune, the very ventilation of the soul" (Baltasar Gracian).

How can you be the answer to a lonely or grieving person's prayer?

_____

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this week's reading*

The Desire of Ages (or *Humble Hero*), chapter 36.

*A special adaptation of *The Desire of Ages*, entitled *Humble Hero*, has been created just for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press® Publishing Association. Get more info about it at: www.cornerstoneconnections.net. By following this plan you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages series each year.