

BIG IDEA: Jesus sees and loves everyone.

Week 12

"Who *Touched* Me?

This lesson is based on Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56; and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 342-348.

Jesus smiled as little hands reached up to Him. He gave their hands a gentle squeeze *(squeeze hand)***. He walked slowly on, through the town by the lake. As He walked, He talked. He told the people about God's big love. There were people up high** *(reach up)***. There were people down low** *(crouch down)***. There were people beside Him, row after row. There were so many people in the big, big crowd! Everyone wanted to be with Jesus.**



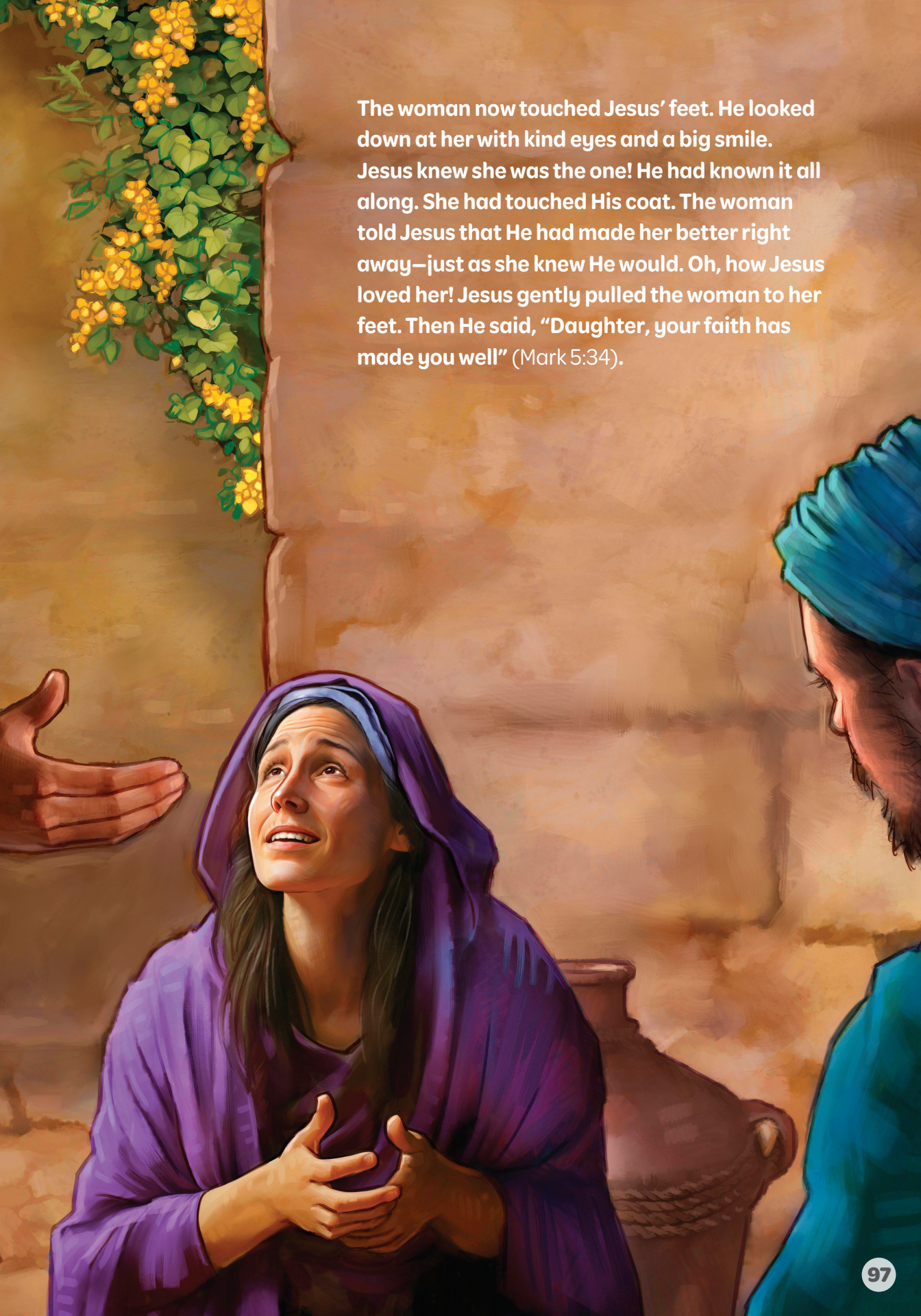


Jesus loved being with people. They pressed in close. *Squish, squash.* Elbows knocked elbows *(gently knock elbows)*. **Knees knocked knees** *(gently knock knees)*.

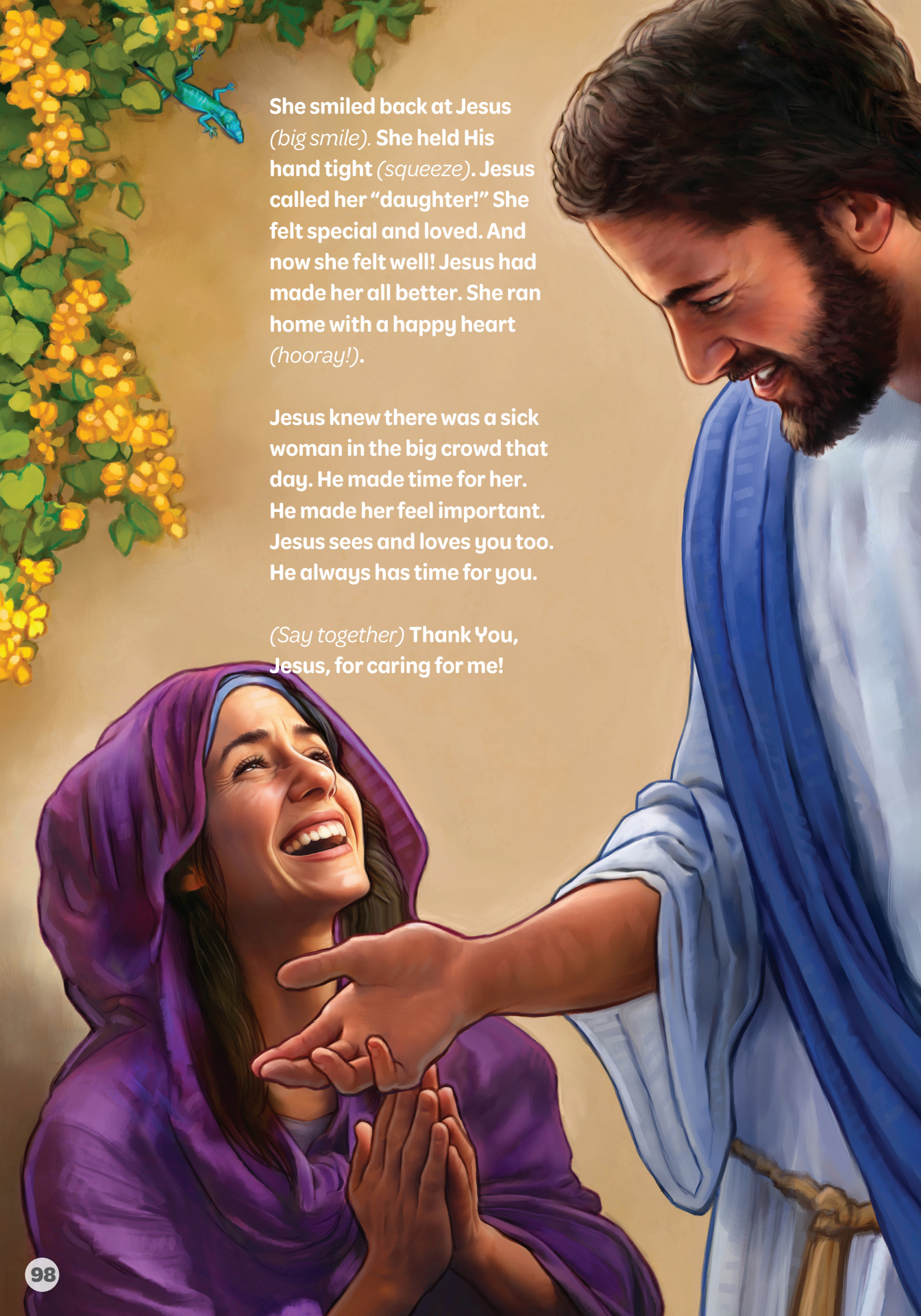
Jesus smiled and walked as He talked. Then suddenly He stopped. Jesus looked up high *(reach up)*. **He looked down low** *(crouch down)*. **He looked at the people, row after row. He said, "Who touched My clothes?"** (Mark 5:30). **What a funny question! Lots of people were touching Jesus. But Jesus knew this touch was different. "Who touched Me?"**



A woman crouched down low, near Jesus' feet. She had been sick for a long, long time. She had seen lots of doctors, but no one could make her better. She knew that Jesus could help! She had squeezed past the people, row after row. Past the people up high *(reach up)* **and down low** *(crouch down)*. **She was the one who had touched His clothes. She said to herself, "If I can even touch His coat, that will be enough to heal me"** (Mark 5:28, ICB)**. And it was!**



The woman now touched Jesus' feet. He looked down at her with kind eyes and a big smile. Jesus knew she was the one! He had known it all along. She had touched His coat. The woman told Jesus that He had made her better right away—just as she knew He would. Oh, how Jesus loved her! Jesus gently pulled the woman to her feet. Then He said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well" (Mark 5:34).



She smiled back at Jesus *(big smile).* **She held His hand tight** *(squeeze)***. Jesus called her "daughter!" She felt special and loved. And now she felt well! Jesus had made her all better. She ran home with a happy heart** *(hooray!)***.**

Jesus knew there was a sick woman in the big crowd that day. He made time for her. He made her feel important. Jesus sees and loves you too. He always has time for you.

(Say together) **Thank You, Jesus, for caring for me!**

play throughout the Day

Create

Create a picture of the crowd from the story. Use finger paints and your child's fingerprint as the people's heads, then draw bodies. Draw Jesus and the woman in the middle of the crowd and draw a heart above them. Display your picture this week to remind your child of this lesson story.

Explore

Use natural objects from the backyard or a park to retell the story of Jesus and the woman. Make a crowd from sticks, leaves, or stones. Get the woman to find Jesus in the "crowd." Thank Jesus for noticing and healing her.

Play

Play a game of hide-and-seek. After a couple of rounds, cuddle your child on your lap and explain that God loves them so much. He always knows where we are, and He loves us *all the time*! Share how even though no one else noticed the sick woman, Jesus saw her and loved her! We can notice people no one else notices, and share Jesus' love with them.

Connect

Jesus sees us and loves us. He always has time for us. We can do the same for others. Model friendliness this week in your interactions with others. Teach your child to look into people's eyes when speaking to them. Teach them to say "Hello" to neighbors and smile. Give your time to someone in need. Show others that they are noticed and loved, just as Jesus did when He was on earth.

Pray

Show your child photos of themselves when they were born. Read Psalm 139:13, 14 and explain to your child that they are fearfully and wonderfully made! Jesus planned them in their mother's tummy. He knows their name and hears their prayers. Say a prayer, thanking God for seeing us, knowing us, and hearing our prayers.



Extension weekly memory verse: "Your faith has made you well. Go in peace" (Mark 5:34).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

In this time-poor world where it is easy to feel overlooked, left out, and lonely—Jesus notices you. He sees you in the crowd. He has all the time in the world for you because you are His beloved child. Whatever hurts and troubles you are experiencing, go to Him. Reach out your hand—full of faith—and claim the wonderful freedom that He promises.

The woman who had suffered sickness for 12 years said to herself, "If I can touch his coat, then I will be healed" (Matthew 9:21, ICB). She believed and put her faith into action. Instantly she was healed. Her faith was rewarded.

More than that—she encountered the Savior. Her Savior. "It is not enough to believe ***about*** Christ; we must believe *in* Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Savior" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages,* p. 347).

Jesus didn't want her to walk away unnoticed. He wanted her to know that she was loved, and that she belonged. Jesus said to her, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well" (Matthew 9:22). Yes, Jesus calls you His daughter, His son.

Jesus sees you in the trenches of parenthood. He sees you when you come to Him at the end of those long days and hold out your hand with the last of your strength in trust and hope. He acknowledges your faith. He encourages you, His son, His daughter.

