

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### JESUS MEETS A DESPERATE WOMAN

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 **Luke 8:43-48 Jesus heals a sick woman**

 **Aim: To consider how desperate we are to get near Jesus**

The woman in today's story was so desperate for healing that she struggled through the bustling crowds, just to touch the cloak of Jesus. After years of living with a long-term illness she was finally healed. Not everyone experiences the same kind of healing as this woman, and today we are exploring ways to help, support and include people with long-term illnesses and disabilities.

You will need:

- A scarf or handkerchief (or two if you have a large group)
- A large sheet of paper and a pen for notes
- To research ways your group can respond to a need in your local area – see Action It section


### Start It

Play a game of pickpockets, the aim of the game being to take the scarf/handkerchief. Ask one child to tuck the scarf in their pocket (or waistband or sleeve if they do not have a pocket) so that it is hanging down. This child is the scarf holder. During the game, they must keep moving as the other children try to take their scarf.


Then choose one protector. The protector moves with the scarf holder, guarding them and trying to protect them from the other children who want to 'steal' their scarf. If a child successfully takes the scarf, then they become the scarf holder. The child whose scarf was taken now joins the protection team. As the game goes on, different children will become the scarf holder, and the number of protectors will increase.

This is a non-contact game! Anyone who touches the scarf holder instead of the scarf automatically joins the protection team.

If you have a larger group, then you may want to have two scarf holders to start off with.

 **Say:** In our story today, a desperate woman tried to touch the hem of Jesus' cloak, but the bustling crowd wouldn't let her reach him. When she finally managed to touch Jesus, amazing things happened.


### Sing It

 **Say:** Let's share our memory verse together.

#### Memory verse

**'I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.  
What you have done is wonderful.  
I know this very well.'**

— (Psalm 139:14 ICB)

 **Say:** Our memory verse for this month is taken from Psalm 139. Our song for today is based on Psalm 139 and reminds us that God knows everything about us and loves us very much.

'You know everything' (Psalm 139) official lyric video featuring Shane and Shane by Kingdom Kids (3:28)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPdGBqup-bw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPdGBqup-bw)

# Tell It

**Say:** Today we continue looking at the way that Jesus cared for people with disabilities. Many of you will probably know someone living with a disability or a long-term illness that makes it difficult for them to live their lives in the way they would like.

**Say:** We can learn a lot from Jesus and the way he made sure people could spend time with him. In today's story we meet a desperate woman who had been struggling with illness for a long time.

## Read:

**'A woman was there who had been bleeding for 12 years. She had spent all her money on doctors, but no doctor was able to heal her. The woman came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his coat. At that moment, her bleeding stopped. Then Jesus said, "Who touched me?"**

**'All the people said they had not touched Jesus. Peter said, "Master, the people are all around you and are pushing against you."**

**'But Jesus said, "Someone did touch me! I felt power go out from me." When the woman saw that she could not hide, she came forward, shaking. She bowed down before Jesus. While all the people listened, she told why she had touched him. Then, she said, she was healed immediately. Jesus said to her, "Dear woman, you are healed because you believed. Go in peace."**

— (Luke 8:43-48 ICB)

**Say:** The woman in the story had seen many different doctors over a long period of time.

**Say:** Many people with disabilities regularly have to visit the doctors or go to the hospital.

## Ask:

→ What do you think it feels like to miss out on things because you are ill or visiting the doctor?

→ Is there anyone you know who is in this position?

→ How could you let them know you are thinking of them?

**Say:** The woman's illness meant that she was excluded from lots of religious activities and could not worship with her friends and family.

## Ask:

→ How do you think she felt when she couldn't join in with everyone else?

→ What kind of activities at church might be difficult for people with a long-term illness or disability to join in with?

**Say:** Despite her illness the woman desperately wanted to be with Jesus. She touched his cloak. Jesus sensed that she was there and healed her.

**Ask:** Not everyone experiences the same healing as the woman in today's story. Why do you think that is?

**Say:** Although we may not experience the same kind of healing as the woman in the story, we can feel the peace of Jesus just like she did. All sorts of people felt that peace when they were around Jesus.

**Ask:** What can we learn from the way Jesus treated people and how it made them feel?

**Say:** Although we can feel Jesus with us any time of the day, something special happens when we worship together.

**Say:** People with disabilities can sometimes find it difficult to join in worship with everyone else. If they are dyslexic they may struggle to read the words on the screen, or those with sensitivity to sound might find the music too noisy. Some may not even be able to get up the steps to enter the building. Those who are in a hospital or living in a residential home might not be able to gather with everyone else for worship.

**Say:** Children like you are brilliant problem solvers, so get creative and think about the following question.

**Ask:** In what ways could we help people with disabilities to spend time with Jesus?

Keep a note of all their ideas. Some of the children may come up with suggestions that are not possible to implement, but keep encouraging them to be creative. The aim of the question is for the children to put themselves in someone else's shoes and look for ways to help. If none of the children suggest asking people with disabilities what they themselves think, then try and draw this into the conversation. Refer back to last week's story, where Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted him to do.

## Action It

There are lots of different ways that the children could support those in the church and the local community who live with long-term illness or disability.

For the Action It activity today, it would be great if the children could respond to a need in your church or local area.

Some ideas are listed below as a starting point:

- Invite a member of the church who lives with a disability or long-term illness for the children to interview (this could be done online)
- Contact a local residential home and see if there are any ways that the children could help, eg create a joke book to read to the residents, send cards to say hello, create a video of a song they would enjoy
- Send a card or letter to children who are living with an illness [www.postpals.co.uk](http://www.postpals.co.uk)
- Invite the corps officer to come to listen to the children's ideas about making church more inclusive
- Share ideas to make your Explore It sessions more inclusive for everyone

## Pray It

**Say:** For our prayer time we are going to take some time to think about how we can be like Jesus and support people with disabilities and long-term illness.

Encourage the group to find a place to sit comfortably or lie down. As they listen to the song, ask them to try to hear the words and answer the main question posed by the lyrics. You may want to share the words of the chorus before listening to the song.

The song is nearly six minutes long, so can be stopped when you feel that the group is becoming restless. A YouTube link is provided for the song below, but you may be better using a music platform where the sound quality is better.

**Listen:** 'Do they see Jesus in me?' by Joy Williams (5:57)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tpf243UN4yM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tpf243UN4yM)

- Do they see Jesus in me?
- Do they recognise your face?
- Do I communicate your love and your grace?
- Do I reflect who you are in the way I choose to be?
- Do they see Jesus in me?

Songwriters: Amy Roth / Peter A Carlson

## Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

JULY  
SESSION 02

### JESUS MEETS A DESPERATE WOMAN

 **Luke 8:43-48 Jesus heals a sick woman**

© **Aim: To consider how desperate we are to get near Jesus**

## FOR ME



### Invent

Watch the clip that describes an amazing invention to support children with long-term illness.

Robot helps children with long-term illness beat loneliness by ITV News

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPV0otETAFs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPV0otETAFs)

Create your own invention to help people with a disability or long-term illness.

## TOGETHER



### Share

Sometimes we can find it difficult to believe that we are 'wonderfully made'. Watch the clip with someone at home to discover how God made you exactly how you are meant to be and that you are incredibly special to him, just the way you are!

*Fro-Yo anyone?* Individuality and self-confidence (Psalm 139:14) by Crossroads Kids (Stop the clip at 7 mins 11 seconds to avoid the adverts!)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNFTVFhugaE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNFTVFhugaE)

Discuss with the people at home how you are all different and yet all special to God.



### Song for the week

'You know everything' (Psalm 139)  
official lyric video featuring Shane and Shane by Kingdom Kids

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPdGBqup-bw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPdGBqup-bw)



### Memory verse

'I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well.'

— (Psalm 139:14 ICB)

### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

*Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

