

## New Hope, New Joy

### Study 10: Jesus' True Identity: Bedrock of Faith

GROUP DISCUSSION. What first attracted you to Jesus?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. What do you appreciate most about the person of Jesus?

Read Luke 8:22-56.

1. How do you perceive the disciples' emotions evolving from the beginning to the end of the event in verses 22-25?
2. The disciples' question at the end is one of the most important they ever ask (v. 25). They realize that they do not know Jesus as well as they thought. When have you found yourself unexpectedly becoming curious about Jesus? What did it lead to?
3. Describe the events in the second encounter (vv. 26-33).
4. Jesus delivered the man, yet the townspeople ask him to leave their region (v. 37). What might be their reasons?
5. In verses 40-56 Jesus and his disciples are back in home territory. The third and fourth astonishing events are intertwined. Focusing on the woman first (vv. 42-48), to your knowledge how is her healing different from other healings Jesus did?
6. What might be Jesus' reason(s) for his insistence on knowing who touched him?
7. The last power event is stretched-out agony for Jairus. Suppose you're Jairus, describing your experience with Jesus (vv. 40-56). How would you describe what you thought and felt about Jesus from the beach to the house?
8. Different people witness one or another of these four power events. Only the disciples witness all of them (only three of them at the last event). Summarize what new things they learned about Jesus during this time.
9. The four crisis situations were quite different from one another. Yet what similarities do you see?
10. What quality of Jesus here (besides love) encourages you to trust him totally in times of crisis? Bring your nagging problems to Jesus your Lord.

## **Now or Later**

In your journal describe to the Lord a crisis you're facing. Then be quiet and listen to him. Write out what he is saying to you. Put into practice the first step he tells you to take. Does your church or fellowship group tend to have half-baked or stereotyped views of Jesus? What about nonchurch friends who indicate some kind of openness? You can use these power events to introduce Jesus to them. You can also use Jesus' encounters with the centurion, the widow, John the Baptist, the Pharisee and the outcast woman in Luke 7. Work out a four-to-six-week schedule for open Bible studies in homes or offices.