# Encounters with Jesus Luke 8:40-48

## Someone like me 7. Wanting a private faith

# Faith without church

## There are some people who don’t want anything to do with church or faith or Christians, but they do want to connect with God

## The religious background to this is full of blame and restriction

### She wasn’t allowed to be intimate with her husband

### She wasn’t allowed in the temple

### She wasn’t allowed to touch other people

# Luke

## In chapters 4-9 Luke is showing Jesus to be

### The ‘Son of Man’ (4-5)

### The herald of the Kingdom (6-8:18)

### The King of the Kingdom (8-9)

## Jesus is for the crowds to admire and for the individual to encounter

### He seeks out and responds to faith

# Jesus has time for you

## This is the message of hope for everyone

## But don’t expect to stay on the outside

# God wants your faith to be public

## This is Jesus wanting the outsider to become an insider

### It’s asking you to believe that God is working in others as well as yourself

# God’s Kingdom is centred on God’s business

### In this story the focus is shifted onto the woman then off again

## Her moment changed her life

### It enabled her to worship with others

### It enabled her to normalise her relationship with her husband

### It enabled her to touch and be touched by others in public without stigma

### It gave her peace

## What act of faith would you do for those rewards?

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Outsiders with faith

## Scenarios to consider

### The teenager who went to university and stopped going to church

### The person who got a job and found the pressure of work and church attendance too much, so dropped church activities

### The person who got married and stopped attending regularly, then stopped attending

### The person who became a parent and drifted away

## How do you suggest the church can engage with people who have turned their backs on the church yet say they remain believers?

### What scriptures, if any, would you use to help them?

### What ‘good news’ could you offer?

## How ‘private’ can faith be without it being ‘useless’?

# Insiders with guilt

## Scenarios to consider

### The loner who complains about what the church offers

### The ‘difficult person who is ‘out of tune’ with the rest of the church

### The person brimming with ideas on how to make the church ‘better’

### The isolated person due to circumstances

#### family/illness/work

## Suggest ways that these outsiders can become insiders

### Does it depend more on the church changing or themselves?

#### Explain your answer

## Are there times when Christians SHOULD feel guilty?

#### Explain your reasoning

### For Christians is there ‘good guilt’ and ‘bad guilt’?

#### If so, describe the difference

##### How can we alleviate each type?

# The words of Christ

## What did Jesus mean when He said ‘Your faith has healed you?’

### In what way did her faith do that?

### Could she have been healed without ‘faith’?

### Does this mean that if she had no faith there would have been no healing?

#### Explain your answer

## Why do you think Jesus said ‘Go in peace’ to this woman

### Why was it important?