

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

Facilitator: Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

CONNECT Group study questions for December 10, 2017

Title: How to Make Faith Work—Mark 5:21-41

Read: Mark 5:21-41

When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore. 22 One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, fell at His feet 23 and implored Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live.” 24 And He went off with him; and a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him.

25 A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, 26 and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse— 27 after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. 28 For she thought, “If I just touch His garments, I will get well.” 29 Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. 30 Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My garments?” 31 And His disciples said to Him, “You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’” 32 And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. 33 But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. 34 And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.”

*35 While He was still speaking, they came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?” 36 But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, *said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid any longer, only believe.” 37 And He*

*allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. 38 They came to the house of the synagogue official; and He saw a commotion, and people loudly weeping and wailing. 39 And entering in, He *said to them, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep." 40 They began laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered the room where the child was. 41 Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which translated means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").*

Review: Read the notes from Pastor Peppy's lesson, *How to Make Faith Work*, and share what God revealed to you from his message.

Question: Faith that acts, asks, and perseveres gets answered, but who determines what the answer will be? Is the answer our choice or God's choice?

If it's God's choice, how should we respond to the answer if we like it? How should we respond if we don't like the answer?

How does faith interact with the act-ask-persevere sequence of how to make prayer work?

Read: Hebrews 11:6

Question: What does it mean to act on a prayer? Give examples of times you prayed and in faith acted on your prayer.

Does how you act on a prayer make a difference on how or whether the prayer is answered?

Question: Does acting on your prayer indicate a lack of faith, as if God needs a helping hand? Obviously not, but why not? **Facilitator:** Read Hebrews 11 and take note of the "hall of fathers" whose faith called them to take action and were blessed with an answer. What did they do, and how did God answer?

Question: When we ask God to bless us with an answer to prayer, should we approach him apologetically as if he's too busy running the universe to be concerned with our request? Or should we ask boldly knowing he wants what's best for us, his children?

What does the way we ask say about our faith in God's ability to answer? **Facilitator:** Hebrews 4:16

Question: We've learned we must persevere in our prayer.

Is there a time when we should call it quits and say: Enough is enough, I guess God doesn't want what I want?

Do you think Abraham came to a point of calling it quits, but persevered nonetheless?