

**The Greatest Showman-The Impossible Comes True  
Desperate for Relief (Dead Made Alive)  
Mark 5:21-34  
(October 28-November 4, 2018)**

Paul Singafus, in his blogpost, *When You Don't Fit in at Church*, states we don't need to belong *everywhere*. When you can't find a sense of belonging in communities or relationships that don't matter much to you, leaving (or just not joining) is an obvious and easy choice. But in places or relationships that do matter, belonging is indispensable. Feeling like an outsider in your own church, marriage, family, or any community or relationship that you cherish isn't just ironic; it's devastating. We rightfully look to those places for connection, meaning, and identity. But when authentic belonging remains perpetually out of reach in a relationship or a community that you value, you're left with pretty painful options: leaving or pretending.

- <http://paulsigafus.com>

**Answer and discuss the following question with your group.**

1. Why is it important to feel like you fit in at church?

**Read the following excerpt out loud or watch message segment #1.**

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, "Desperate for Relief"

"When they land they are met by a man named Jairus. He is the leader of the synagogue. He is not a priest. He does not do the priestly duties, but he is like the chairman of the board of elders. He is highly respected. His daughter is ill. She is 12 years old. He throws himself at the feet of Jesus and begs. He normally would not have had anything to do with Jesus. Jairus would have viewed Jesus as an outsider – a trouble maker – a blasphemer. He probably did not know him, but he had been told about him.

**Refer to Mark 5:21-34 and answer/discuss the following questions.**

2. Considering the message excerpt and scripture passage, what brought Jairus to Jesus and what barriers might have prevented the meeting?
3. From the passage, we know the woman came to Jesus after she had spent all of her money on doctors to make her well. Her illness was embarrassing and humiliating – but it was worse than that – it made her religiously unclean and shut off from the worship of God and the fellowship of her friends. What experiences, life circumstances or events cause people to feel shut off from God and their friends?

4. In your opinion, what did these two people believe about Jesus that brought them to him?

**Read the following excerpt out loud or watch message segment #2.**

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, "Desperate for Relief"

My guess is that some of you listening today have felt just like this woman did – shut out. For whatever reason something might have even shut us out from our family, or our church. You need to reach out – reach out to Jesus. Not only can he heal you, he can restore you.

**Answer/discuss the following questions.**

5. What barriers or fears do people experience when they come to a church for the first time or consider returning for another visit?
6. As you think about the worship experience at StoneBridge Christian Church, how are people able to experience Jesus?
7. Sometimes people who come to church need to meet Jesus through others. What are some things everyone can do to be Jesus to those who come to church?

**Reflection and Wrap-up**

8. As you reflect on this lesson, what do you need to ask God to do in your life to bring others to church or help those that come feel accepted?
9. What is one thing you can do each Sunday to help people feel accepted at church?

**Pray Together as a Group**

**Additional Study**

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- John 3:33
- Acts 8:14
- Romans 15:7
- Acts 11:1-10