



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, we reflect how you call us out of our comfort into new places of growth and ministry. From the times of Moses to the ministry of Jesus, over and over you surprise your people by calling them to go beyond the known into the unknown. Help us when we are afraid and increase our faith so we can boldly follow where your Spirit is leading us. Let us see the new things you are doing in our midst, in our communities, and throughout the world. Guide our study today so that we might find your blessings. All this we lift up in the boundless name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Luke 8:42b-48 (NIV)

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. ⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ “Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.”

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”

⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

Luke 19:1-5 (NIV)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

May 25, 2025
“Beyond Uncomfortable”

INTRODUCTION

From Abraham to Joseph to Jeremiah to Daniel, following the Lord does not always mean remaining in constant comfort. In fact, quite often, doing God’s will calls us to step out and do things that are uncomfortable. It is natural and very human to want comfort, yet remaining in comfort forever may inhibit our ability to effectively spread the Gospel. As we consider these biblical stories and the discussion questions, may the Lord who brings us peace and comfort - as well as gives us courage to move through the uncomfortable - bless us. May our faith deepen and our witness increase to the glory of God.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite comfy “place?” This could be furniture, location, home, person, music, or in whatever you find the greatest comfort. What does this comfy place offer you? Do you spend enough time there, too much time there, or not enough time there?
2. In the Luke 8:42b-48 reading (on page 1), we read about a woman who was sick for 12 years. She believed that simply by touching the hem of Jesus’ robe she will be healed. What “what ifs” do you think she had going through her head? How can faith help you to push past the “what ifs” in your life?
3. In Luke 19:1-5 (on page 1), Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. What things do we do to see Jesus more clearly than if we stayed in our current predicament? Just as Zacchaeus was changed, how has your life been changed when you “see” the Lord?
4. In both passages, the individuals pushed past the uncomfortable obstacles and found great blessing. When has the Lord surprised you when you went through something uncomfortable in your witness for Jesus Christ?

FINAL APPLICATION

Being uncomfortable is not always pleasant; yet at times becoming uncomfortable and taking action, changing our minds, and stepping out in faith are exactly what God wants us to do. What is beyond uncomfortable can be the very blessings we have sought for a season or even a lifetime. Let us take courage, with the Holy Spirit’s help, and strive after the Lord in new and known ways. What is an area of your life that you have been putting off engaging with because it is uncomfortable; and what can you do to engage it this week?