

## EVERLASTING FATHER

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MARK 5:21-43

### Introduction

The fatherly heart of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mark 5:21-36)

The fatherly heart of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mark 5:37-43)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

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1. Why is it unusual to call Jesus "Everlasting Father"?
2. Why is the image of "father" difficult for some people to associate with God? How do you grapple with this challenge?
3. Read through Mark 5:21-43 out loud. Give your group 3-5 minutes in silence for each person in the group to jot down their observations and questions about the passage. Encourage people to note as many as they can, even if they don't know why all of them are significant. The more observations everyone makes, the more sparks for conversation.
4. After people jot down observations, open it up for anyone in group to share one of their observations. (Remember that an observation is something you can point to in the text, so ask people to show where they see it in the passage.) Discuss together what it might mean.
5. Even though this passage does not use the title "father" for Jesus, where in this passage do you see Jesus' fatherly heart?
6. Go through some of the characters in the passage (Jairus, the bleeding woman, the disciples, the little girl, the crowds) and ask what they might have been thinking and feeling over the course of this story. What was their experience of Jesus like?
7. Which character in the story do you most relate to? Why?
8. How can Jesus be so patient, giving time to an individual woman in a crowd, when the situation is so urgent? Why is it hard for us to be patient?
9. Why is it important that Jesus brings together both strength/authority and compassion/tenderness? What would happen if he only had one?
10. How does seeing Jesus' fatherly heart in this passage change how you relate to him in your own life?
11. How does seeing Jesus' fatherly heart change how you relate to others in your own life? How can you have more of his heart towards others?

PRAYER PROMPT: Who in your life needs to experience the fatherly heart of Jesus? Take time as a group to pray for them to experience his nearness, compassion, and strength in whatever situation they are facing. (Tip: It is probably simplest to not spend extra time sharing about each person's situation, but simply to jump into prayer and have each person simply pray for the person they have in mind.)