

Weekly Study

May 8, 2022 | Got Junk? Yeah, Me Too | Deb Kirkwood

We hope you all had an awesome Mother's Day weekend with our Red Rocks Church family as well as with those closest to you. This week we had the honor to hear from Pastor Jill Johnson. As a group, we encourage you to talk about ways that God used her message in your life personally and how it encourages you in your everyday life. We are hopeful that you all experience much life as you go around and share what God has been doing in and through your life.

To start, pick two of these and share with the group...

- Something that brought you joy this week
- A great moment or a high for you this week
- A tough situation or low for you this week

G R O W

Read John 5:1-9a.

When you read this passage you see that the man who has been laying on his mat for 38 years has no idea that it's Jesus who is standing in front of him — the one with the power to heal him and restore him. In verse 8, Jesus displays his authority by telling the man to get up and walk — and then instantly the man is healed. Not only does He command the sickness to leave the man's body, but is awakening faith in him as well.

What emotions rise up in you when you read this story?

What, if anything, keeps you from having the same amount of faith in Jesus' ability to heal and redeem your story?

M O V E

Read John 4:4-26.

What's amazing about this story is that in the first-century Jewish world, women were considered to be shameful simply because of their gender. Men and women rarely interacted, and it would have been unheard of to see a Jewish man interact with a Samaritan woman. Yet in this story we not only see Jesus initiate contact with her, but calls her into a life of healing and gives her the explicit revelation of His identity as the Messiah. This was the first time He had publicly proclaimed who He is - and he did it to a woman who had a lot of 'junk' she felt she was carrying around!

Jesus does not name the junk in our lives to shame us; rather, when the Holy Spirit helps us identify the places of pain in our lives, it's for the purpose of freedom and healing. When we partner with Him to do the hard work of healing, it brings peace to our own minds, hearts and bodies, but it also matters for the people around us that God has given to us to love and care for.

Talk about the season of life you're in right now and what "junk" is coming to the surface that God is wanting to partner with you to heal.

P R A Y E R

Pray as a group. As a group, pick one or two topics below and be intentional about asking God to act and intervene in the situation:

- Share about something you or someone you know needs prayer for and then once everyone shares, pray for the person on your right.
- Who is one person you know that doesn't know Jesus, let's pray for them by name and find ways to get to know them better and ask God for opportunities to share with them the gospel.
- Think of a few things that you can thank God for in prayer, remembering the things He has already done in your life.