

Easy Street is a Dead End

walking out of defeat and into *victory*

Alene Snodgrass

A 6-Week Study Guide for Individual and Group Use

“Oh God, direct me along a well-lighted street.”
Psalms 27:11 MSG

Jesus said, "You're tied down to the mundane; I'm in touch with what is beyond your horizons. You live in terms of what you see and touch. I'm living on other terms. I told you that you were missing God in all this. You're at a dead end. If you won't believe I am who I say I am, you're at the dead end of sins. You're missing God in your lives."
John 8:23 MSG

*Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life."
*John 8:34 MSG**

*"As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living, or right anything for that matter. But do you call that a free life? What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now. Where did it get you? A dead end."
*Romans 6:20 MSG**

*"Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross.
But easy street is a dead-end street."
*Philippians 3:17 MSG**



Week One
You Think You Have Issues

Day One – We all Have Issues

Recap this week's lesson by reading the story in [Luke 8:43:48](#).

How do you relate to this woman with the issue of bleeding?

What are the ways that you've tried to deal with your issues?



Press in to Jesus and tell Him your issues and struggles.

Day Two – Put Your Focus on God

The first step our woman with issues had to take was to seek God wholeheartedly, despite her struggles. Read [Matthew 6:28-34](#).

What does Jesus say to us? Fill in the blanks.

Seek first _____.

Do not worry about _____.

Do you focus more on your struggles or on Jesus? _____



Tell Jesus what is on your mind and hear Him say, "Do not worry."

Day Three – Changed from the Inside Out

When we put all our trust in God, He begins to change us from the inside out. Romans 12:1-2 MSG says,

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

When you read that passage what thoughts came to your mind?

If the woman in Luke 8:43-48 would have continued fitting in to her culture, do you think she would have been healed? _____

Why or why not? _____

When we fix our attention on God, He changes us from the inside out because He replaces all the mistruths we hide in our hearts with His TRUTH.



Ask God for the discipline to read His word everyday so that the mistruths in your mind will be replaced with the TRUTH. _____

Day Four – Changed Thoughts Equal Changed Lives

Jesus says in Matthew 5:8 MSG, "You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world."

What does this mean to you?

Your inside world – mind and heart – are changed when you begin to make a conscience effort to change your thought processes.

Look up [Philippians 4:8-9](#). Rewrite this passage in your own words.

From the above scripture, how do you change your thought processes?



Changing the way we think can be a challenge. Write out a prayer asking Jesus for help in this area.

Day Five – Take a Risk

Jesus tells the woman with the issue of bleeding, "Daughter, you took a risk trusting me, and now you're healed. Live well, live blessed." Luke 8:48 MSG

Do you think she took a risk? _____

If so, what did she risk? _____

Reflecting on our lessons from this week, what risks do you think you need to take to begin walking out of the situations that have you defeated and into the victory you can have in Christ?



Name the challenges that stop you from moving on. Lift them up to Jesus in prayer. Ask Him to give you the courage it takes to risk trusting Him so you can step out into a life of victory.

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What do you think about this study?

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