

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE NOVEMBER 2013

My Name is Future

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BEGINNING THOUGHTS...

Calendars, datebooks, sticky notes, files, iPads and alarms to remind us.....we seem to have a tremendous need for these things in our lives. We live in a world of need to know, have to know, or want to know what's happening today, tomorrow or next year.

I'm currently planning a family trip. We're all anticipating it with excitement, wanting the departure date to hurry up and get here. Yet, there is no guarantee we will all be able to go. I'm not spending my energy worrying about what might or could happen to spoil our plans. Rather, I'm filled with hope and assurance that, if God wills, we can take our special trip.

The future is something we want within our control. Yet, no one knows what will happen even one second from now. We don't hold the future in our hands; God does. He gives us clear instructions that we are not to worry about the tomorrow; we have enough going on today. That's not to say don't ever plan anything. As long as we live on earth, something will always need our attention. But God wants us to plan for our future in Heaven—how we can evangelize more souls and serve and worship Him in a local church. He wants us to plan for life with Him forever. Without Him, there is no future happy ending. How well we know Jesus determines where we spend eternity. He already knows us and He knows what will take place in our lives. Choosing to trust and obey Him ensures that our future is filled with all the wonderful things He has prepared for us.

Did Jarius continue serving in the synagogue, or did he become a disciple of Jesus? We're not told. Did his daughter become a missionary, an elder's wife or one of Christ's servants? The Bible doesn't say. Whatever became of them, I'd like to think they recognized and understood that Jesus had given them the keys to His Kingdom—that no matter what happened to them here on earth, they would enjoy a future with Him in Heaven. Jesus had a purpose and a plan when He came into town that day. He has a purpose and a plan for your life, also. His purpose is for you to glorify Him. Study hard, friends. Your future depends on it.

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SEEKING A FUTURE

Key Verse: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

Key Thought: Hope for any future begins in seeking the Lord and establishing a personal relationship with Him.

- ✚ Write the Key Verse in your journal. Memorize this verse.
- ✚ Read p. 34 in *Treasure*, then go over the questions and answers on p. 35.
- ✚ How many of us worry about not having “anything to wear” (*Matthew 6:28*)? To have all our needs met, what are we to do? (*Seek God and His righteousness—Matthew 6:33.*)
- ✚ Those verses in Matthew remind us that Jesus is concerned about our cares and does not want us to worry. (*Read Psalm 127:2; Luke 12:7; 1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6*)
- ✚ What can worry cause in your life? (*Lack of sleep—Ecclesiastes 8:16; Loss of appetite—Psalm 102:4; Doubting mind—Luke 12:29; Loss of peace—Ecclesiastes 2:23; Lack of fruit—Matthew 13:22.*)
- ✚ Do you know anyone who worries about everything? Are they happy? How do we keep our mind from being overcome with worry? (*Trust God to handle it—Psalm 18:48-49; Isaiah 26:3; Find peace in God—John 14:27, 16:33, Philippians 4:7; Study the Bible—Romans 15:4; 1 Peter 2:2; Jeremiah 15:16; Ask the Holy Spirit to help—Galatians 5:22.*)
- ✚ At this moment, how does your future look? Are you trusting God for your future? In your journal, list some reasons why we can trust God for our future, then share as a group. (*EXAMPLES: He has all power; He’s rich in grace; He gives comfort; He’s in control; He’s our source of light; He’ll never fail us; He’s sovereign.*)
- ✚ Why do you suppose Jesus told Jarius to “not be afraid” in Mark 5:36? (*He didn’t want him to fear but to believe.*)
- ✚ What is the answer to fear? (*Faith—believing God knows what He is doing always.*) Does that make it all go away? (*No, but it makes it easier to deal with.*)
- ✚ What were the words Jesus tenderly spoke to her? (*“Talitha cumi”, Arabic for “Little lamb, arise.”*) Where else do we find Jesus using the term “Lamb” or “Little One”? (*Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 18:14; John 21:15*)
- ✚ In your journal write the name JESUS and the words “Alpha and Omega” next to His name. What do these words mean? (*The beginning and the end—Revelation 1:8; 21:6.*)

Reflection: Thank God that He knows and holds the future in His hands.

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ALL FOR HIS GLORY

Key Verse: *"I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Isaiah 43:6-7).*

Key Thought: When our plans get interrupted, or we can't make sense of our situation, we can trust God's timing and purposes. Remembering He created us for His glory, we realize He may receive greater glory through these circumstances.

- + Write the key verse in your journal.
 - + Draw a circle. Write your name in the center. Add directional arrows (N., S., E., W) to indicate a compass. Ask, "From which direction are you? (*Allow a couple of ladies to share their home city, state, etc.*) Then go over the questions/answers on p. 37 of *Treasure*.
 - + Jarius, being a leader in the synagogue, had authority. Could this power keep his daughter from dying? (*No*) Who had all the authority? (*Jesus. Even the number 12—age of the daughter and number of years the woman was sick—was the number for God's authority and perfection of government.*)
 - + Where are some places the number 12 is used to indicate authority or importance to God? (*Jesus at age 12—Luke 2:41-43; 12 legions of angels—Matthew 26:53; 12 tribes of Israel—Genesis 49:28; 12 Apostles—Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:14.*) Twelve is also a significant number for Israel and the Church. (*founded by the 12 sons of Jacob; New Covenant Church, founded by the 12 Apostles.*)
 - + Do you believe numbers are important to Jesus? (*Even the very hairs of your head are numbered—Matthew 10:30.*)
 - + The Bible, also, puts emphasis on other numbers, but our focus is on 12. Read Revelation 22:1-2. What was on this tree? (*12 kinds of fruit.*) How often did the tree yield its fruit? (*Every month or 12 times a year.*)
 - + Read Revelation 21:10-21 together. Note how many times the number 12 is used. (*nine times in KJV*) In this same passage, how many cubits was the wall? (*144 cubits or 12x12, a multiple of 12—Revelation 21:17.*)
 - + What was the purpose of this New Jerusalem? (*The glory of God—Revelation 21:23.*)
 - + Why did Jesus heal the woman and bring Jarius' little girl back to life? (*For the Glory of God and to show He is in control.*)
 - + Write the name of *Jehovah Shammah*, "The Lord is There" in your journal.
- Reflection:** Dismiss in prayer and thank God for healing and for comfort.

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HOPE INTERCEDES

Key Verse: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).*

Key Thought: We can know hope even in despair, recognizing that God's grace and supernatural power transcends our human sight and reasoning.

✚ Write the key verse in your journal. Memorize it this week. Then, go over the questions and answers on p. 39 of *Treasure*.

✚ What does the word "hope" mean to you? (*An expectation—I hope it doesn't rain today; a want—I hope I can afford a new car; a maybe—Maybe we can go on a trip later.*)

✚ It should be a sure certain anticipation of things in the future—Heaven. Read 1 Peter 3:15. What is that hope? (*Hope of eternal life, hope of living a Christian life here on earth, hope of our salvation, hope that makes us joyful.*) Where is this hope rooted? (*in Christ.*)

✚ Do we always remember our hope? (*No, some days we are all bent out of shape, sad, sick, hurt, or in turmoil.*) Does that mean our hope is gone? (*Definitely not—Psalm 33:18; Hebrews 6:19; Titus 2:13; Jeremiah 17:7.*)

✚ Do you think Jarius lost his hope when he heard his daughter was dead? (*Being a parent, myself, I think that his heart most certainly sank at that time.*)

✚ Applying the key verse for this week to our story, we may ask, "How could any death, especially a child, work out for good?" Did Jarius love the Lord when Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, only believe"? (*Remember Jarius had just witnessed the healing of the woman with the issue of blood.*)

✚ Why did Jesus put all the people except the father, mother, Peter, James and John out of the girl's room? (*He wanted the disciples to see something they would never forget; He wanted to ease the parent's agony and pain; To give us all a view that will keep us steady, peaceful, and calm during our darkest hours—Mark 5:40-43.*)

✚ Was Jesus planning to interrupt all funerals from then on by raising people from the dead? (*No, so He instructed them not to tell anyone.*) How did Jesus view the girl's death? (*She was "asleep"—Mark 5:39*)

✚ What does 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 remind Christians? (*That we have hope. Jesus is coming again.*)

✚ Sing or say the words to "The Solid Rock", (*REJOICE p. 419*).

✚ Write this name for CHRIST in your journal: "Resurrection and the Life."

Reflection: Thank God for the hope He gives to all who love and believe in Him.

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ARISE AND EAT

Key Verse: *“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14).*

Key Thought: We find initial healing as we experience new life through salvation, but greater growth and healing come as we daily feast on His Word.

✚ Go over the questions and answers on p. 41 of *Treasure*.

✚ When you wake up in the morning (or whenever, depending on jobs), are you hungry?

✚ Jesus knew that Jarius’ daughter needed to eat to sustain her body and to give her strength to recover from the sickness. What did Jesus do after the Resurrection to prove He was really alive? (*Eat—Luke 24:41-43.*)

✚ God wants us to eat of His Word? Why? (*To be strong in the faith—Romans 10:8; Ephesians 4:4-6; To discern good and evil—Hebrews 5:14; To give direction and guidance—Isaiah 58:11; John 16:13; To provide our hope and future—Colossians 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:1.*)

✚ How do you view death? Is it temporary or final to you?

✚ What did Jesus say about Lazarus, His friend? (*He’s asleep—John 11:11-13.*)

✚ Did Jesus feel sorrow? (*Yes; Jesus wept—John 11:33-36.*) Did Jesus wail, tear out His hair, or rip His garments as the professional mourners did? (*No, He knew that death isn’t final for Christians.*)

✚ Name others in Scripture who are said to have fallen asleep. (*Stephen—Acts 7:59-60; David—Acts 13:36.*)

✚ Are Jesus’ promises real? (*Yes—Titus 1:1; Hebrews 6:18.*) Are promises in the Bible automatic? (*No, there are conditions to meet and exercise.*)

✚ What are these condition? (*To love God—John 14:23; To live by faith—Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 112:7; To know that the Lord is God—Psalm 100:3; To recognize God’s sovereignty—Psalm 83:18; Luke 17:24; To believe in God’s providence—Esther 4:14; To trust His grace—Ephesians 1:6, 11.*)

✚ What do God’s promises give us? (*hope, an anchor, assurance, faith, confidence, comfort, peace and joy.*)

✚ Write the name *Yeshuah* (Jesus) and the meaning, “Jehovah is Salvation” in your journal.

Reflection: Thank God for your salvation and the promises God gives us.