**Week 2 – DWTS: Abuse**

**This Week’s Overcomer:** “Her name is Shame”

**Scripture Reference:** Read Mark 5:21-34

**Her Scars:** The woman suffering from bleeding had been ostracized for twelve, long, lonely years. In first century Jewish society, her medical condition made her an outcast and as such, everything she touched became defiled. Because of the Levitical Laws regarding illness and bleeding, touching this woman (and anything associated with her) would render a devout Jew “unclean”. An unclean person could not participate in corporate worship and had to remain separated from the daily activities of friends and family so as to not spread “uncleanness”. Thus, the bleeding woman suffered alone, truly making her feel as if her name was “Shame”. It was inevitable that when she reached out to others for help they would recoil in horror. She must have truly felt as though she had nowhere to turn and no one to turn to.

**Her Healing:** Living as a victim of abuse of any kind can make us feel the way the woman named “Shame” must have felt; that we are somehow untouchable, unlovable, unworthy; that we are just “un-”. But these feelings are not accurate reflections of reality. While our circumstances may have had a part in shaping us, they do not define us. God wants you to know the truth – He defines who you are and you are not “un-” in His eyes. You are His child, precious and loved, and He longs to bring you out of a place of shame and into a place of honor. He does this through the restoring power of Christ.

As the woman named “Shame” found, the touch of Jesus brings life and restoration. Previously rejected by those who should have loved her, even “Shame” discovered that ALL are worthy to touch the hem of His garment. She summoned just enough faith to reach out and dared to hope He could help her; she discovered that Jesus will rush in to rescue even those with the most tremulous of faiths. Our overcomer started her story in defeated loneliness but she ends her story in victory. And because of her faith, her name is changed by Jesus Himself – she is no longer, “Shame”. She is, “Daughter”.

**Discussion Questions:**

* What do you like best about this story? Why?
* What questions do you have about this passage?
* What will it look like to live out this passage in your everyday life?
* Read Jeremiah 30:17 (NIV) *“But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord, because you are called an outcast, Zion for whom no one cares.”*
  + What two things does God promise to do?
  + Continue reading verses 18-22 in Jeremiah 30. These words are directed at the nation of Israel, a model of how God intends to keep the promises He made to the Jewish people. As believers in Christ, we are covenanted with God and included in His promises. How might these verses be applied in your own life?
  + Look at verse 22. What does this say about the relationship God desires to have with you?
* As a group, how can we encourage one another toward restoration?

**Table Talking Points:**

* Abuse comes in many forms.
* Victims of abuse can feel as though they have nowhere to turn and no one that wants to or can relate to their unique experience.
* Our enemy would love for us to remain separated, but God desires to restore us to fellowship.
* Though past abuses can be a part of shaping us, they do not define us.
* Christ can restore anyone to wholeness and life, but we must be willing to reach out to Him and receive these things.