

## God with Us Brings Hope

### Day 5 HOPE FOR LIFE

**And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)**

*If I can just get close enough to touch his clothes, I'll be healed,* the woman thought. (Her story is told in Mark 5:21–34.) It was a bold hope she held. For 12 years, she had somehow bled. No one had been able to help her. Doctors had tried, but the woman's condition had only gotten worse. But she had heard about this Jesus - the stories, the miracles, the healings - and she believed. Hope awoke inside of her. The hope of healing, the hope of a new life, drove her to take action.

It may seem like a small action, but it was bold. She did what she could to just get close enough to Jesus and reach out. When she did, it made all the difference in the world. Was it hard? Probably. Jockeying her way through the noisy, clamoring crowd must've been difficult, especially with a long-term illness. Was she afraid? Yes, especially when Jesus began looking for her in the throng of people. But the healing, peace, and freedom He gave her changed her life.

What, or who, we put our hope in makes all the difference. Jesus is worthy. He was and still is God with Us. He fulfilled Israel's hope for the Messiah when he arrived that first Christmas. He fulfilled humanity's hopes for victory over death when He resurrected that first Easter. And one day He will ultimately fulfill all hope and complete God's work of restoration for all creation. This is the promise He left us with to give us a foundation of confidence and boldness: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20.) This is a promise worthy to fuel our hope.

***How will you put your hope into action this Advent season?  
Name a time when God fulfilled your hope. How does it fuel  
you now?***