



## SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“Jesus Heals the Centurion’s Servant” (Matthew 8:5-13)**

Date: **May 19, 2019**

We are back in Matthew this week as we continue on with the next story in Matthew 8. Remember, Jesus has concluded his famous Sermon on the Mount and has come down the mountain. There are crowds following him around from place to place and they have just witnessed him heal a leper. This week we arrive at this story in Matthew 8:5-13. Jesus has made his way to Capernaum where he meets a Gentile centurion. The centurion approaches Jesus and tells him that he has a servant at home who is suffering terribly. He addresses Jesus as Lord and, in his conversation with Jesus, he demonstrates that he has genuine faith in the power of Jesus Christ. He believes that Jesus can heal his servant with just a word. Jesus, full of mercy, compassion, and power, heals the servant because of the centurion’s faith. As we study this story, we will reflect upon the power and mercy of Jesus, the faith of the centurion, and the ingathering of the gentiles. The gospel is for all who would believe – both Jew and Gentile. This passage calls us to follow the centurion’s example and humbly believe in Christ.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

### Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 8:5-13 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
  - a. Jesus enters the city of Capernaum (v. 5). What do we know about this city?
  - b. What is a centurion? What kind of disposition would the Jews have had toward the centurion?
  - c. What does the centurion say to Jesus in verse 8? Does the centurion ask anything of Jesus?
  - d. What does Jesus’ response to the centurion in verse 7 tell us about Jesus?
  - e. Read the centurion’s response to Jesus in verses 8-9. What does his reaction teach us about his faith? What does he believe about Jesus?
  - f. After the centurion responds to Jesus, Jesus marvelled (v. 10). Why do you think Jesus marvelled? What does this teach us about Jesus?



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- g. In verses 11-12, Jesus uses this encounter with the centurion as a prophetic warning to the Jews. What does Jesus teach us in verse 11? What are some Old Testament passages that support this teaching?
- h. What warning does Jesus give in verse 12? What does Paul say about this in Romans 11:25?

### Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What different things do we learn about Jesus in this passage? Why is Jesus worth having faith in?
3. In order for the centurion to approach Jesus the way he did, he needed to be humble. Why is humility necessary when we approach Jesus? How can we ensure that we approach Jesus (i.e. in worship or in prayer) with humility?
4. Why do you think Jesus marvelled in response to the centurion's faith? Read 1 Samuel 16:7. What does this teach us about that which God is most concerned about in our lives? How should knowing this affect the way we live?
5. After this encounter with the Gentile centurion, Jesus looked at the crowds and gave them a stern warning. What was the warning that he gave? What do we learn about evangelism from Christ's example?
6. What kinds of people are welcomed into the kingdom of heaven according to verse 11? How should this motivate us as we seek to go and make disciples (Matthew 18:18-20)?