

Small Groups Study Guide

Luke 7:1-10

November 5, 2023

1. Spend time discussing how everyone is doing.
2. Open up with a short prayer or popcorn style (where everyone can pray a little bit)
3. Lesson

- a. Scripture

Luke 7:1-10

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Slave

7 After Jesus[a] had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2 A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly and who was ill and close to death. 3 When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. 4 When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, 5 for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." 6 And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; 7 therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me, and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." 9 When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and, turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." 10 When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

- b. Cultural information

- i. V. 2 7.2 centurion . . . had a slave. Centurions commanded roughly 80 troops; often they worked their way up through the ranks to achieve their position. Roman military units were stationed in Caesarea and in Jerusalem; they consisted of auxiliary troops, mostly recruited from Syria. Servants could be viewed as members of households (see note on Mt 8.6).
- ii. V. 5 7.5 Jewish people appreciated God-fearing Gentiles. Some Gentiles (such as this centurion) became benefactors of local synagogues, although this was much more common in the Diaspora.
- iii. V. 6 7.6 come under my roof. Strict Jews considered Gentile homes unclean and would not enter there. The elders may ask for an exception in the centurion's case (v. 4) if they know there is no idolatry there (the main source of uncleanness).
- iv. V. 8 7.8 The centurion understands how authority works: just as soldiers obey the centurion because he is backed by the authority of the empire, every earthly harm, including disease, must submit to Jesus because he is backed by God's authority (cf. 4.32,36; 5.24).

- c. Thoughts and questions

- i. What do you think the message of this scripture is? Is there only one message? Describe this message and why you think your interpretation is correct?

- ii. Most (my opinion) scholars agree Capernaum was kind of like a home base for Jesus and the disciples.

It might appear that Christ set up His ministry base in a remote place. However, just the opposite was true. He chose the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee (and Capernaum was located at a key place along the Via Maris) as a center stage so His message would reach as many as possible in the world.

By spending most of His ministry time in the northern Galilee area, Christ's miracles traveled by word of mouth to the ends of the earth. This laid the groundwork and sowed the seeds of the gospel to the rest of the known world. As a result, evangelism done later on by the apostles would be easier and more acceptable.

- By the way, I think this was Peter's home ... Google it to see if I'm right!!

= <https://www.holylandsite.com/capernaum-overview>

- iii. There is a very good chance that if Jesus had that as home base, then he would have been known by this centurion.
- iv. So, he probably didn't have completely blind faith in Jesus as one who knew nothing about him and had never met him.
- v. Nevertheless, these two people (Jesus and the centurion) were able to break down all their cultural, religious, and legal backgrounds.
- vi. Why do you think that the centurion said Jesus didn't need to even come to his house to heal his servant? Sidetrack: Can you find any other healings in the gospels where Jesus was not actually physically present with the person sick?
- vii. In the sermon, I focused on the message of trusting God in our lives. Do you see any other possible sermon messages/topics from this scripture?
- viii. What things do you easily entrust to God and what things do you struggle to entrust to God?
- ix. If you trusted God more, what difference/s would it make in your life?
- x. What do you think about Jesus showing compassion to a Roman ... someone who was not an Israelite? Does it make you think about who God welcomes in?
- xi. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9vSd9oVqc>
- xii. One of the key issues in this scripture ... Jesus' authority:
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/3RxUuq5MR3A>