

Small Group Discussion Guide — September 22, 2019

- Series: Faith
 - Sermon: Faith In Christ Alone
 - Scripture: Matthew 8: 5-13 (NLT)
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

As you look back over the past week, what can you see had a hold on your soul? How free have you felt this week?

CONNECT:

1. What stood out to you from this week's service?
2. Tell about a time you felt truly *amazed* at something. What about it was so captivating to you?

ENGAGE:

1. Read Matthew 8: 5-7.
 - What do these verses tell you about the centurion's character?
 - Why is it surprising that Jesus offered to go to the centurion's home? What does this tell you about Jesus?
2. Read verses 8-10.
 - What do the centurion's words reveal about the way he views Jesus? The way he views himself?
 - Why is this so important to Jesus? How does it demonstrate *faith*?
3. Read verses 11-13.
 - Who are "the many" that Jesus is referencing?
 - Keeping in mind that Jesus' audience was a Jewish crowd, why is Jesus saying this?
 - What connection does Jesus draw between the centurion's faith and his servant's healing?

APPLY:

1. Drew discussed two different systems for looking at the world - a closed system built on fear (narrative is "But what if..."), and an open system built on faith (narrative is "Even if..."). How do these systems play out in your life, in the way you approach relationships, your job / school, finances, decisions about the future, etc.? Pick one area that you approach with fear, and discuss ways you can bring it into a life of faith.
2. The centurion was intimately familiar with the idea of authority and recognized Jesus' authority over physical healing. In what area of your life would recognizing the authority of Christ bring greater peace and direction to you? How would it help direct your thoughts?

PRAY:

Father, we long to have faith that amazes you, but so often we fall short because of fear. We know that even the smallest faith is a divine gift, and you long for us to accept it and to live without fear. Will you give us faith that looks outward and trusts your goodness and grace? In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER:

Quotes and Scripture for Discussion

“It’s not the strength of your faith but the object of your faith that actually saves you. Strong faith in a weak branch is fatally inferior to weak faith in a strong branch.”

Tim Keller

“Can we seriously imagine that Jesus could be Lord if he were not smart? If he were divine, would he be dumb? Or uninformed? Once you start to think about it, how could he be what we take him to be in all other respects and not be the best-informed and most intelligent person of all, the smartest person who ever lived?”

Dallas Willard

Colossians 2:3

“In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”