

“Believing is Seeing”
Growth Group Discussion Guide
John 4:43-54
February 25, 2024

Before beginning, pray that God’s spirit will be present as you share with each other, and that you will notice him there.

1. Ice-breaker questions:

- Can you think of something you saw that, if you hadn’t seen it with your own eyes, you would have never believed it could happen?
 - Is there an event in your life, or one that you witnessed in someone close to you, that defies explanation and causes you to call it a miracle?
 - o If so, does it show you something about God? (*For now it’s ok if not, but don’t miss the chance to notice if it does!*)
 - Can you recall a time when you had to act in faith, unsure of what the outcome would be, but believing or hoping for the best? How did it turn out? How did that impact your faith?
2. Read John 4:43-56 to get the full context of the questions below.
3. For a challenging thing to think about, look specifically at verses 43-45, then verse 48. This is puzzling:
- a. In v.44-45, Jesus points out that a prophet has no honor in his own country, yet the next sentence says that “the Galileans welcome him.” Then in v.48 he seems to rebuke the people for their lack of faith. What’s going on here? Does this say anything about what Jesus expects from these people?
4. Think about the “royal official”, first mentioned in verse 46. Andy pointed out that this man was probably an “outsider” – either someone from King Herod’s administration, or possibly a local Roman ruler, or wealthy landowner. How does this man’s status as an outsider (someone not Jewish) affect how we read this story? What does this say about Jesus?
5. What kind of faith does the man seem to express? How does his faith change as the story progresses?
- a. If you are comfortable answering, how has *your faith* changed over time? What has brought you to deeper faith? What has challenged your faith?
6. How have you seen God working in *small* ways, in the mundane, in ordinary life?
7. For those comfortable, talk with the group about something that you are having trouble seeing NOW, something that you’re unsure of and maybe fearful of, that you feel God is asking you to trust him in. What is it?
- a. What will trusting him require you to do?
 - b. How can your group support your faith?

As you close in prayer for one another, remind one another of Jesus’s words: “...Blessed are those who have not yet seen, and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)