

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE - WEEK OF 5/12/24

MATTHEW 8: 1-13 ESV

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 8: 1-13 ESV

¹ When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ² And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." ³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶ "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed." ⁹ For I too am a man 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 servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

SERMON RECAP - MAIN POINTS

Profile Jesus for Yourself

1. Touches Untouchables
2. Marked with Authority

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What has been one "high" and one "low" from your past week?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- Who has been a great example to you of what it means to have faith in Christ?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What is taking place in this passage?
- What words or themes stand out to you, and why?
- What are the circumstances of the text?
- Who is involved in the passage and what do you notice about the participants?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- How does the leper approach Jesus?
- How would the centurion have been viewed by the Jewish people?
- What did Jesus think of the centurion's faith?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What does this passage teach us about God? What does it teach us about Jesus?
- How does this passage relate to the Gospel?
- How does this text relate to other parts of Scripture?
- How would we summarize the truth of this passage in our own words?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- Why is it significant that the leper knelt before Jesus and worshipped him?
- What is the significance of Jesus affirming the centurion's faith?
- What can we learn from the leper and centurion's example?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What encouraged you the most from this week's passage? What challenged you the most?
- Does this passage impact your understanding of the Lord? If so, how?
- What is one action you can take this week in obedience to the Lord?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- Who would we be tempted to consider as "unsavable" in the modern world, similarly to the centurion?
- How are you encouraged by the leper and centurion?
- What does it mean to be touched by God?