

## An Encounter of Faith and Need

Luke 7:1-10, Luke 8:40-50

Jesus acknowledges our need.

Jesus can be amazed at our faith or lack of faith.

Luke 7:9, Mark 6:6, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:6, James 1:5-6

Faith is much more than an intellectual belief.

Faith is an **action** or it is not faith.

## An Encounter of Healing and God's Sovereignty

God heals through new life.

2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 1:21

God Heals through the confession of sin.

Psalms 103:2-4

God Heals miraculously in keeping with his sovereign will.

Isaiah 55:8-9, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Phil 4:4 -4:7, James 5:13-16

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### God's Sovereignty

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### Faith-Action-Trust-Confidence-Blessing

*It all starts with Jesus*

## NEXT STEPS

*Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with a life group and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.*

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Food is a big part of most of our lives. If you had to give up a favorite food, which one would be the most difficult for you to give up? What is one food you'd be happy never to eat again?

### DIGGING DEEPER

We saw that the Roman centurion got a "yes" answer to his request for Jesus to heal his servant. However, not everyone in the Bible got a similar answer to their prayers. In 2 Samuel 12:15-23, we read about King David's persistent prayer for something that was incredibly important to him. What surprises you about David's behavior?

How is the balance between asking for what we want and deferring to God's will revealed in this story?

Jesus can be amazed at our faith or lack of faith. Often people confuse faith with positive thinking. They think that if they claim it, confess it, or believe something strong enough, their "faith" obligates God to grant their request. How does Hebrews 11:13 address this thinking?

Faith can be defined as “trusting God enough to do what he says.” In John 4, we read about Jesus healing the son of another government official. In what ways do you see this definition of faith reflected in the official’s response to Jesus in John 4:49-50?

Can you think of any examples in your life when you trusted God enough to do what he said? What was the outcome?

Faith is not a complete package a person receives when we accept Christ (asking Jesus into your life-the starting line). Our trust is not to be in a set program (religion) but in a dynamic Person (Jesus). Faith is a growing response to God and grows best in the adversities of life. Since you first met Jesus, what aspects of your relationship with him have helped you grow in trusting his way of life?

*Read Proverbs 3:5-6.*

Trust involves heartfelt confidence in God. We sometimes feel that we can’t trust anyone—not even God with our problem or need. How does this passage help you take the action step of trusting God?

*What does it mean to depend on God? Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-25.*

*What is the source of confidence? Read Judges 7:2-3.*

What does this passage tell us about where we should turn to with our need? Confidence grows out of our reliance upon God.

*What is the purpose of confidence? Read Matthew 10:26-42.*

How does confidence from God and in God give you a new perspective on life’s problems?

## Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Prayer goes better in a group when we follow three simple guidelines.

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it’s covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

**WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it’s hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one’s required to pray out loud.

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## PRAYER REQUESTS