



## John 4:46-54 Small Group Questions

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- How would you define true faith? How does true faith differ from belief? How does it differ from salvation?
- Ben said that the three components of saving faith are found in this passage, and he started with reason. What can we gather about this official? What kind of man is he?
  - What can we infer about his relationship with Jesus? What do you think he knew about Jesus, if anything? What is it that he's "heard" about him? (verse 47).
  - What is it that ultimately causes the official to go and see Jesus?
  - What is the relationship between neediness and faith? When has need in your life led to greater faith in God?
  - Ben said that this official shows that true faith involves reason. He hears about Jesus, He thinks about Jesus, and then he decides to approach Jesus. How did reason factor into you coming to faith?
    - How can we help people reason through their hearing of the gospel?
    - What are some apologetic arguments that have helped you reason through your faith?
    - Ben mentioned that need was a huge part of the official's reasoning. He had a need, and he thought that Jesus could

meet that need. How do we help people see the need in their lives?

- In what ways might nonbelievers experience need that Jesus can satisfy?
- Ben also said that this official demonstrates true faith because he takes Jesus at His word. How does this miracle story seem to differ from other miracle stories in the Gospels?
  - Why do you think that this official wanted Jesus to come down with him to his home? What emotions do you think he experienced when he asked this question?
  - What is Jesus' response to the official? Does his response surprise you?
    - Why does Jesus offer the harsh response about signs and wonders in verse 48?
    - How would you distinguish "reason" from "proof"? What is the difference between using reason to consider faith versus demanding proof from God?
  - In a similar vein, why do you think that Jesus did not go down with the official? Why does He choose to heal the official's son from a distance?
  - This official listens to Jesus, taking Him at His word, and he goes down to his home. Do you think that this was a hard thing to do? What made it hard?
  - What does it look like for people to take Jesus at His word when it comes to faith? Why is it hard to do this? Do you think there are some times that are harder to do this than others?
  - What *is* Jesus' word when it comes to faith? How does the integrity of His word and His promises inform the good times in our lives? How about the hard times?

- Finally, Ben said that true faith rests in Jesus. After this man goes down, he learns that his son was healed at the exact moment that Jesus said that he would be well. What do you think the official experienced in that moment? What do you think he was feeling?
  - When have you seen Jesus come through on His promises in your life? When have you seen Him meet a need that you had?
  - What does it look like to rest in the promises of Jesus? How does “rest” in Jesus differ from the “work” of life without Him?
- How do we balance the call to pray for healing in the Bible with the fact that God does not choose to heal everyone on this side of eternity?
- Who are some people in your life that are considering faith right now? What might it look like to help them see the reason of faith, the trustworthiness of faith, and the rest of faith?