

Common Ground Cafe

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, June 30, 2019



Caring About You!

Luke 7:1-10

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Get to Know You

Where is the most amazing place you have ever been? Why was it so amazing? Alternate question: Where is the most amazing place you would like to go? (Use the alternate question if someone or the group struggles for answers.)

Study the Book

Read Luke 7:1-10

Verse nine is a key verse in this passage, as we find Jesus “marveled” or “amazed” at the faith of the centurion.

Jesus marvels at the faith of this unlikely person!

In what ways was the centurion an unlikely person of faith?

Bruce used the illustration of a child who never grows beyond the baby stage to describe believers who never mature in their faith.

What are some marks of a mature believer?

What does a perpetual baby believer look like in contemporary Christianity?

What are the marks of an amazing faith?

Bruce focused on three marks of amazing faith from the passage:

An open and receptive heart

The centurion had an open and receptive heart to God and to others. He cared for the slave. His care was more than the value of what the slave could bring to him. The phrase in verse two notes a place of honor and even preciousness in the master's affection for the slave.

How does a growing faith in God lead us to be open and receptive to others?

A demonstration of humility

Read Luke 7:6-7

In what ways could the centurion's position, power, and wealth have been a matter of pride in his heart?

How can our own position, power, and wealth become a matter of pride in our own hearts?

A recognition of Jesus' spiritual authority

The centurion recognized the limitation of his own human authority compared with the authority of Jesus Christ.

How is the authority and power of the Word of God reflected in the following passages (focus on what God says, the use of the word "Word", and imagery concerning what comes forth from His mouth):

Isaiah 11:1-5

Genesis 1

John 1:1-3, 14

John 18:4-6

Revelation 19:11-16

(Assign each passage to someone different in the group. Have them report their findings to everyone.)

Look at the Book (Group Application Discussion)

How would you summarize this passage in a sentence?

How can believers apply this passage throughout the week?

Live the Book (Personal Reflection and Application)

Who do you know that has not placed their faith in Jesus (sick and dying just like the slave) and needs Jesus to heal them from sin? Write down their name. Pray for them. Share the good news with them this week.

Rate yourself as to your faith maturity? How would a close friend rate your faith maturity?

1

Baby Faith

5

Adolescent Faith

10

Mature Faith

What is one step of growth I can take this week as I seek to grow in my own marks of mature faith?