



**Growth Group Questions**  
**May 5, 2024**  
**“You Are Worthy”**

**Context:**

The sixth chapter of Luke is often referred to as the Sermon on the Plain. It has similarities to the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7. After Jesus concluded this message, he word entered Capernaum and word reached him that there was a centurion whose servant was dying. At this point in history Rome was not utilizing centurions in a direct military capacity and it is possible that this centurion was employed by Herod Antipas.

The centurion is portrayed by the Jewish elders as a man who has been good to the people of Capernaum. He had contributed to the building of the synagogue and unlike many other Roman centurions he had been kind to the people of Israel.

The centurion knew enough about Jewish law to know that if Jesus entered his house Jesus would become ceremonially unclean. Jesus did not seem to care much about this because we often see him eating in the homes of sinners. We should not miss the social and religious gap that existed between Jew and Greek in the first century and which caused friction in the early church.

The centurion’s concern is around being unworthy of being in the presence of Jesus. He knows that Jesus does not have to enter his home to bring healing and so he talks about the authority that rests in Jesus. Jesus can say the word and the centurion’s servant would be healed. This is precisely what happens. The word of Jesus is powerful enough to bring healing even when he is not in the room.

This story reminds us that faith can be simple. It is not about memorizing certain things or knowing the 10 Commandments. Faith is trusting that Jesus will do what he has promised to do, even when we don’t fully understand. Though a physical miracle takes place, the story reminds us of the faith of one who was able to see Jesus for who he truly was. This story of the centurion foreshadows the movement of Jesus message out from the Jewish community into the Gentile community which we see in the book of Acts.



## Scripture:

### Luke 3:15-16

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with<sup>[a]</sup> water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire.

### Luke 7:1-10

<sup>7</sup> When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. <sup>2</sup> There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. <sup>3</sup> The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup> When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, <sup>5</sup> because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” <sup>6</sup> So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. <sup>7</sup> That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>8</sup> For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

<sup>9</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” <sup>10</sup> Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

### Acts 10:1-6

<sup>10</sup> At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. <sup>3</sup> One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!”

<sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.”

### Acts 10:25-29

<sup>25</sup> As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. <sup>26</sup> But Peter made him get up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.” <sup>27</sup> While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. <sup>28</sup> He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”

### Acts 10:44-46

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in tongues<sup>[a]</sup> and praising God.



## Questions:

1. In Luke 7:1-10, what do the Centurion's decisions and instructions say about what he believes about Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus was amazed at the Centurion's faith?
3. What determines something's value?
4. What does it mean for someone to be worthy?
5. Pastor Paul said that we often base our worthiness on what we have done but that Jesus flips that narrative. What does that mean to you?
6. What Bible verse(s) remind you of your worth in Christ?
7. Why do we sometimes struggle to see ourselves as worthy in God's eyes?
8. In what ways does knowing your value to God help you to lead a life that is pleasing to Him?
9. What lessons did you learn from the story of the Centurion and Simon Peter in Acts 10?
10. Pastor Paul quoted Tim Keller as saying that God is recklessly extravagant in order that we might know our worth. What does that statement mean to you?

