

Transition:

Jesus has finished the Sermon on the Mount and has seemed to gain some popularity, as “great crowds followed him.” For most of His ministry, it will be tough for Him to get time alone. Most of His miracles, teachings and interactions take place with mobs of people around Him. As He comes down from the mountain, He cleanses a leper and then enters a town called Capernaum where he is approached by an officer of the Roman army called a Centurion.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the Centurion say he was not worthy to have Jesus come to his house?
2. Only twice in Scripture does it say Jesus “marveled” at something (Mark 6:7 is the other) – what about the Centurion would make Him marvel?
3. What is the “faith” that Jesus is referring to in verse 10?

Fundamental:

Spiritual Leadership – God has placed all authority in our lives sovereignly (Rom 13:1-2). Particularly within the church body, there are roles. Leadership/Authority is never taken, always given. Jesus said, “The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant.” Paul said, “In humility count others more significant than yourselves...” and “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

1. What happens when someone tries to TAKE leadership/authority? (James 4:6)
2. Was Jesus under authority? How was that illustrated? How does that affect us? (Heb 13:17)
3. How important is it to have accountability and an abundance of wise counsel? (Pro 11:14)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Examine your heart for pride and rebellion to leadership. Consider asking your small group leader where you can improve. Repent and make amends.
2. Please read Matthew 8 again in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

You will minister best to your disciples through serving them. To lead them the best, they must know that you genuinely care for them and their family more than telling them how to live.

Prayer:

Pray that we realize how God has set up His Church – may we understand the purpose of leadership/authority and that it is *given* – not lorded over us.

Extras:

Spiritual Leadership by J. Oswald Sanders