

LIFE Group Sermon Questions

The Center of Everything: The Soldier
Pastor Josh Parsons
February 8, 2026
Luke 7:1-10



THE ORCHARD

Luke 7:1-10

After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2 Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. 3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy to have you do this for him, 5 for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue.” 6 And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. 7 Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” 9 when Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” 10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

Sermon Outline

What Faith Does:

- I. Faith asks (Luke 7:2)
- II. Faith believes (Luke 7:7-8)
- III. Faith receives (Luke 7:9-10)

Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn today from the Scripture passage(s) that you didn't know before? What is something that hit you in a fresh way?
2. Luke 7:2 says that the servant of this soldier was “highly valued” by him. The sense of this verse means more than just what this servant could *do* for him. This servant was *precious* to him. How can you show love to those bound to you? How can you show love specifically to those who are under your authority (at work, school, home, etc.)?
3. What keeps you from approaching God and asking him for what you need?
4. Which do you struggle with more: making your requests to God confidently or in humility? In praying and asking God for things, what does *false* confidence look like? What does false humility look like?

5. Apart from *answering* our requests, what encouragement can you draw from knowing that God *hears* them?
6. When do you find it hardest to believe that what God does is best? What has helped you in those times trust him anyway? How might you encourage someone *else* who is struggling to trust him in a situation like that?
7. The centurion's faith is founded on the testimony of others. For us, our faith is founded on the testimony of Scripture. How has reading your Bible helped strengthen your faith? Give an example. How has *not* reading your Bible *weakened* your faith?
8. Why is it important to believe that God *can* do what we ask but that he isn't *bound* to do what we ask?
9. In what ways do you think you *deserve* the things God gives? What's the danger of thinking this way? What's an antidote to thinking this way?
10. Why is faith the avenue through which we receive the blessing of God? (Hint: read Ephesians 2:8-9!)
11. What do you think makes it so hard to *receive* the gift of salvation as opposed to *earning* it? What's the beauty in receiving instead of earning it?