



*November 28, 2021*  
*Sunday School*

### MAIN THOUGHT

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."  
Acts 10:34-35 (KJV)

Lesson:  
No Difference

Scripture:  
Acts 10:34-47

Unified Topic  
Visions of Praise

# Weekly Compass

## A Centurion Comes To Jesus

**1** 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 these things, 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.

Luke 7:1-10 (NIV)



### Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for the ways you show up in unexpected places and unexpected people. Remind us that when we have been mistreated, that You see us and hear our cries. When you speak to us in the middle of the night or in the light of day, help us to say, "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening." When circumstances take us to places we would never have chosen to go, help us to keep choosing to make the best of life where we are. When we are sick and coping with chronic physical challenges pour Your power and grace upon us. Grant us faith as strong as the centurion that we might trust Your power, authority, and compassion in our daily walk with You. For it is in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## **A Centurion - Finding God In Someone You Don't Expect**

It is easy to meet God in people who look and act like faithful Godfearing people. It can be quite surprising when it is discovered that someone who is outwardly different than expected has faith in Jesus Christ too. In this story, Jesus is "amazed" to find faith in a centurion that surpasses what He had seen in anyone else in Israel. The Roman centurion was an unlikely person to amaze Jesus. The centurion came to Jesus with humility and acknowledged His God-given authority by his faith.

The centurion made the healing of his servant a reality by putting his faith in Jesus, who has proven that what is unseen or impossible, may be seen and made possible. Much can be learned from Jesus' surprise at the enemy soldier proving to be a model of faith for the people of God. Just as the centurion recognized how unworthy he was and how worthy Jesus was, he also knew that Jesus had the ultimate authority (v. 8). What he understood then

and what is still known today, all Jesus has to do is speak a word. His word is sufficient!

This story teaches that faith can show up in unlikely people and places. It could even show up in the appearance of an enemy. Know God can use non-believers and people of other faiths. They do good things too. Don't discount them but look at them differently - as God's beloved children. Jesus wants to see an attitude of faith and the expectation that was present in the centurion. Jesus invites everyone to come to Him by faith, trusting in His power and desire to help. Because God is no respecter of persons, expect Him to show up in unexpected people and unexpected places. Don't be surprised who God chooses or who He decides to work through, and who He commends.

### Talking Point(s)

1. What did this story teach you about being a disciple for Jesus?
2. Who is the least likely person you would expect to show grace to you?
3. Who is the least likely person who could expect grace from you?
4. How will you amaze Jesus this week?