

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 26, 2008

Passage: Luke 7:1-38

Memory Passage: Isaiah 66:2

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:1-7.** How would you describe the character of this centurion? On what basis did the Jewish elders ask Jesus to come and heal this man's servant?
- (b) On what basis does Jesus heal the servant? Is it because the centurion was "deserving"?
- (c) What did the centurion think about himself (Luke 7:6)? How is this consistent with Luke 6:20 and Matthew 5:3?
- (d) Read James 4:6 and 4:10. On what basis does God hear and answer our prayers (Isaiah 66:2)?
- (e) What should be our attitude when we ask the Lord to heal someone? Is it because they are deserving?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 7:1-7 and Isaiah 66:2. Talk together about humility. Why is humility important for believers? Why is it important in our praying? Thank the Lord for all He has graciously given you and ask Him to keep you humble in heart.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:8-10.** How did this centurion show his faith? What did he understand about the authority of Jesus?
- (b) What did Jesus proclaim about this man's faith? What was the basis of his faith? What can you learn about faith from this man?
- (c) What similar situation occurred in John 4:46-53? On what basis did the man believe? On what basis should we believe?
- (d) Also read Matthew 15:22-28. How did Jesus respond to this Gentile woman's request? What did he say about her faith? What is another characteristic of faith?
- (e) What is frequently said about the disciple's faith (Matthew 6:30; Matthew 8:26; Mathew 14:31; Matthew 16:8)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 7:8-10 and Hebrews 11:6. What is faith? How much faith does a person need to have to be saved? How much do we need to have the Lord hear our prayers? Is our faith always perfect? Read Luke 17:5 and pray that the Lord might increase your faith.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:11-21.** What was the level of this woman's faith? Why did Jesus heal her son (Luke 7:13)?
- (b) What is often the reason that Jesus healed (Mark 1:41; Mark 5:29)? Is faith the only factor in healing?
- (c) Read Luke 4:25-27. What two examples of God's sovereignty in healing did Jesus use in this passage? Is healing simply a matter of having enough faith?
- (d) Read Daniel 3:14-18. What two elements of faith do these three show? Why do most Christians only see their words in verse 17 as true faith and not see verse 18 as real faith?
- (e) Read Hebrews 11:6. What two elements of faith are mentioned here? What reward is often the one that faith secures (Luke 6:23)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 7:11-21. Does God always heal whenever we pray for healing? Why not? Is the problem our lack of faith? How would you define faith in God? Pray that you can trust God no matter whether He chooses to heal or not.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:18-28.** How did John end up in prison (Luke 3:19-21)? What had Jesus said would be part of his ministry in Luke 4:18? How might this have affected John's faith?
- (b) Did any other spiritual leaders ever have struggles in their faith (Numbers 11:10-15; 1 Kings 19:1; Jeremiah 20:7-9; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9)? How should this encourage us as believers?
- (c) How did Jesus "answer" their question (Luke 7:21-23)? Why did he do this (Isaiah 29:18-19; 35:4-6; 42:1-7)?
- (d) What did Jesus say about John's greatness? How are believers greater than John the Baptist? What does this say about even the weakest, most struggling Christian?
- (e) What are we to do for those who are struggling (1 Thessalonians 5:14; Galatians 6:1)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 7:18-28. Is it possible to be a believer and have doubts? Talk about some of the reasons that we have doubts about things spiritually. Why did John doubt? Did Jesus reject him because of his doubts? How does having a right view of healing help us to be strong in our faith when we are not healed? Pray for someone who is suffering and struggling to trust God in their suffering.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 7:24-35.** What did Jesus say about John and his ministry? How did the Pharisees react?
- (b) What does Luke tell us is the reason they reacted this way (Luke 7:30)?
- (c) Why is this generation so hard to reach? How does this show us the futility of trying to please people in order to reach them with the gospel? What should be our approach?
- (d) What is the difference between being childish (Luke 7:31-34) and childlike (Matthew 18:3; Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17)?
- (e) Does this rule out making friends as a bridge to sharing the gospel? What do these verses tell us about how Jesus reached out to sinners?
- (f) *Family:* Luke 7:34-35. What is the danger of trying to please people just to get them to hear the gospel? What should our approach be? Pray together for someone who needs to know Christ.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Luke 7:1-38. What was the reason that the Jewish elders wanted Jesus to heal the centurion's servant? Why did Jesus heal him? Why did he heal the widow's son? What conclusions can you make about faith and healing and God's compassion? What have you learned about even weak and struggling faith? Pray for your church services tomorrow that God's people will respond to God's Word in faith.

**DATE:** April 26, 2008

**PASSAGE:** Luke 7:1-39

***The Disciple's Faith***

*"I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"*