



## THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

*Unit Theme: Illumination of mind and heart*

*Lesson connected to Sunday, February 16, 2020*

*Today's Scripture: Luke 7:1-10*

*Key Verse: "But only speak the word and let my servant be healed." Luke 7:7*

### *Contexts of the Scripture:*

- Luke was composed between 80-90CE and its reported author is mentioned elsewhere in the Christian Scriptures as a companion of the Apostle Paul.
- The author of Luke is well aware of the dynamics of power and oppression in the area of Palestine in which Jesus lived and ministered. He uses coded language to call out the Roman Empire for its brutality and yet still proclaims a Savior in Jesus who has come for all.
- For Luke Jesus transcends all differences between people – poverty vs. wealth, power vs. submission, race and ethnicity. Jesus offers compassion to all who are wounded by the system in which they live and dares to name the evil which does the wounding.

### *Questions to go deeper:*

- Read through the story several times to get the outline of what's happening and sketch it out on a piece of paper. How does it start? How does it end? What is the main interaction between Jesus and the Centurion? Do they ever meet in person?
- Why did the centurion reach out to Jesus? Who did he approach to help him do this? Why were they willing to help?
- What is the extraordinary statement the centurion makes to Jesus via the friends he sent to intercept him on his way to the centurion's house? Write it out on a piece of paper.
- How does the Centurion explain to Jesus his reasoning for Jesus just to speak words of healing for the slave rather than visiting in person? How does Jesus react?
- Why does Jesus say "I tell you not even in Israel have I encountered such faith"?

### *Activity possibilities:*

- **Family activities:**
  - Where would this fall on the bible timeline? Hint: Check out the context info above!
  - Do some research on Roman centurions. Check out this link to a Wikipedia article: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centurion>
    - What information do you learn that surprises you?

- How does this make the story of the Centurion's encounter with Jesus even more incredible?
  - When the Centurion needed help from Jesus, he didn't just come to Jesus. He went to his friends whom he asked to approach Jesus on his behalf. Why do you think he did this? If you needed to ask some friends to intercede or intervene with someone else on your behalf, who would you ask? Why? Whom of your friends might ask you to do the same for them? Do you think you would do it? Why or why not?
- **Younger children activities:**
  - Check out these images of a Centurion:  
<https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/roman-centurion?sort=mostpopular&mediatype=photography&phrase=roman%20centurion>
  - How does seeing these pictures of Centurions change how you understand this story?
  - Jesus and the Centurion never met personally. Draw a picture of what you imagine would have happened if they had met face to face.
- **Older children and youth activities:**
  - Check out this video retelling of this story on YouTube.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97aOfLC4S-o>
    - How is this portrayal of the story different from what the Gospel of Luke describes? Which do you relate to more? Why?

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.