

Background Scripture: Luke 7:1-10

Print Passage: Luke 7:1-10

Words of Healing



WAKE UP!

GEORGETTE LOVES ALL COLORFUL THINGS. HER ROOM HAS MULTI-COLORED PAINTED WALLS, AND HER CLOSET IS HOME TO CLOTHES THAT ARE EVERY COLOR OF THE RAINBOW; EVEN HER MAKEUP AND ACCESSORIES ARE FULL OF COLOR AND VIBRANCE! Everyone around her loves her

outfits and looks forward to seeing what colorful combination she will create. Halfway through the school year, a new student arrived in Georgette's homeroom; her name is Ella. Unlike Georgette, Ella only wears black: black clothes, black shoes, and a black backpack. Georgette's homeroom teacher placed Ella in the seat right next to her and asked Georgette to be her

campus guide for the first few days, since they have most of the same classes together.



The first thing everyone noticed as the two girls walked together in the halls was the stark difference in their appearances. Everyone questioned Ella's outfits, and people gossiped about her being emo or goth. On the third day of serving as a guide for Ella, Georgette asked why Ella

only wore black. Ella responded that her family recently experienced a fire in their home, and many of her old clothes were ruined in the fire. She said that most of her new clothes were donated and that she did not choose them.

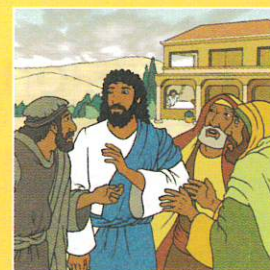
The next day, Georgette brought a bag full of her favorite colorful clothes and quietly offered them to Ella. For the rest of the semester, Ella mixed and matched her black clothes with the colorful clothes she had received from Georgette.



WORD UP

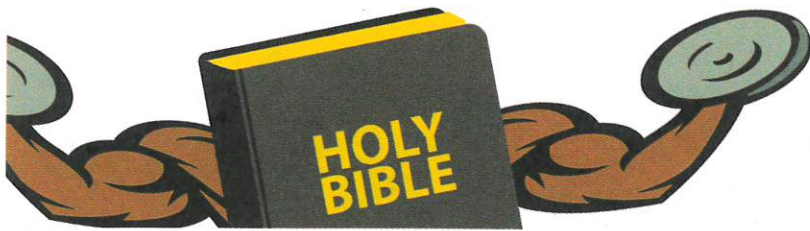
Luke 7:1-10

1 When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. **2** There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. **3** The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. **4** When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, **5** because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." **6** 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. **7** That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. **8** 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." **9** When Jesus heard this, 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." **10** Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.



KEY VERSE:

"That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed." (Luke 7:7)



WORK OUT

NAVIGATING DIFFERENCES IS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE LESSONS WE CAN LEARN THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, YET IT CAN SOMETIMES BE TROUBLESOME.

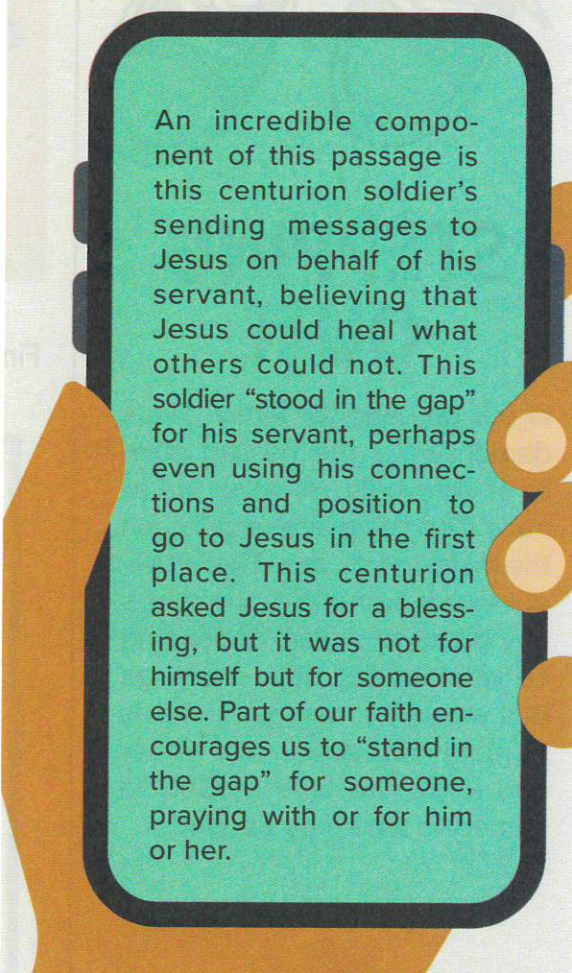
Our politicians must navigate differences as they make policies, just as we must navigate differences in school or our families. While sometimes we can have trouble seeing through the differences of others, there is no one too different for God. This story of Jesus Christ and the centurion soldier is about overcoming differences for the greater good. This centurion soldier represented a government and military power opposed to everything for which Jesus and His ministry stood. However, this soldier's servant was sick, and the centurion believed that Jesus was the only one who could heal him. Since the centurion cared deeply about his servant and did not want him to die, he put differences aside and believed that Jesus could (and would) do something about it. Jesus would also do the same and extend the power of God (that was thought to be exclusive to people of the Jewish faith) toward the servant of a Roman soldier. No amount of difference that we may have between us and someone else should prevent us from coming together for the sake of what is ultimately good. But the faith of this centurion soldier did not stop there; he did not even let Jesus get to his house before sending another message saying, "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed" (verses 6-7). This man's confidence in the words of Jesus still stands as a model for our faith today!

INSIDE OUT



One of the things that this passage highlights is overcoming differences. Jesus and the Roman centurion were very different from one another—coming from different backgrounds, cultures, and social locations. However, that did not prevent Jesus from healing the centurion's servant. Jesus was willing to set aside the things that made them different and focus on those things that they had in common: in this case, concern for the servant's life. Similarly, there are times in our lives today when we must set aside the things that make us different and place more emphasis on those that draw us together.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!



An incredible component of this passage is this centurion soldier's sending messages to Jesus on behalf of his servant, believing that Jesus could heal what others could not. This soldier "stood in the gap" for his servant, perhaps even using his connections and position to go to Jesus in the first place. This centurion asked Jesus for a blessing, but it was not for himself but for someone else. Part of our faith encourages us to "stand in the gap" for someone, praying with or for him or her.

WALK OUT



We have seen Jesus heal people in various contexts, but this time Jesus was not even in the same place as the centurion soldier's servant and healed him. How? Because this soldier had just that much faith. Sometimes, we do not see the great things God can do—not because God cannot do them, but because our faith is too limited. How different would our lives and walks be if we had the kind of faith in the words of Jesus that this centurion soldier had?