

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of JUNE 9/10

AMAZING FAITH

#1 *When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." 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. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 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."

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." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well. Luke 7:1-10

Are you happy today? Are you sad? Sometimes we feel very happy and sometimes we feel very sad or worried. The Bible reading tells about a man who was sad and worried about one of his servants who was sick and about to die. The man heard that Jesus was coming by so he sent some messengers to ask Jesus for help. The man tried to send Jesus away, but Jesus kept coming. Finally, the man said to Jesus, "Just say the word and I know my servant will get better." And that's just what happened. Jesus said the man's servant would be healed and at that moment he was. Jesus was impressed with the man's faith and love for his servant. It is good to know that Jesus keeps coming and is always ready to forgive us no matter how bad we might feel. He says, "I love you, let's try again."

Pray: Thank you God for sending Jesus to forgive my sins and make all things better. Turn my sadness into joy today. I love you Jesus. Amen.

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AMAZING FAITH

#2 *For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake... But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*
2 Corinthians 4:5,7

Have you ever been to a flower show? There are judges there who have to choose the best flowers. What if you were the judge and had to choose between two flowers. The first was a wilted, dried up flower in a very pretty, hand painted pot. It is so pretty you could take the flower out, place it on your table, and the pot would look great all by itself. The second was a beautiful flower in an old clay pot. The choice is easy if you are choosing between the two flowers right? The second one would win. But what if you were choosing between the two pots? Well, then the first one would win. Right? The judge has to know what to judge. Our Bible reading tells us that we shouldn't judge people but, rather, their message. Listen today for people who share the good news about Jesus. That message is like the beautiful flower in the old clay pot. Don't be impressed by others who only look good on the outside but have nothing to share on the inside.

Pray: Jesus thank you for the message of forgiveness you bring. Help me to share it with others. Amen.