



## Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of January 30, 2022

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*Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.*

### Connect

- What movie, tv show, or podcast have you watched or streamed lately that you really loved? Why?
- If you could have one dream come true, what would it be?

### The Context

Last week we saw through the transformation and witness of the Samaritan woman that our life of faith can be a testimony and sign to those around us of the mighty works of Jesus. As we live our life with, in, and for Jesus, and share our story of our journey with Jesus, God can use that to change lives. Jesus is able to take any life and transform it and use it for the good and change of others. Today we will see another example of the power and compassion of Jesus as He heals the son of royal official - without ever being in the child's immediate physical presence. We find out that Jesus is a miracle-working Savior, but He is so much more than that. He is more concerned with our belief in Him. Jesus is more than a miracle worker. He's more than a genie in the bottle, automatic prayer answering machine, heavenly 911, or exciting show. Jesus wants our belief to be deeper than what He can do for us. God can heal and do miracles at any time - yet He doesn't do it all the time. This can be both faith-shaking and frustrating. However, when we trust in Who He is, we find out that the will of God is always for the eternal best of His people. He's more for us than we could ever imagine. He wants more for us than problems solved, issues healed, and miracles performed. He's shaping us into His vision for us. An eternal, beautiful, forgiven, sharing, living, breathing, bringer of the Good News and story of Jesus.

### Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

#### **John 4:43-54** NIV

"After the two days he left for Galilee. 44 (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) 45 When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there. 46 Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. 47 When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. 48 "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." 49 The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." 50 "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. 51 While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. 52 When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." 53 Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed. 54 This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee."

## Discuss

1. Why do you think the royal official came to Jesus with his need?
2. What are some reasons people do not turn to God in times of difficulty? Why do people turn to God in times of need?
3. What healings or miracles have you seen God perform?
4. Is Jesus looking for people to follow Him because of the miracles He performs? Did Jesus come to be a miracle worker? Why did He come? (see John 1:35-36, 2:19-22, 3:14-17)
5. What is the biggest lesson you have learned about God by turning to Him in times of trial and adversity?
6. Does God always provide help in the way that we want Him to?
7. How should we respond to God even when we do not see a miracle?
8. What activities, exercises, or tasks can we practice regularly that could help us respond in faith and trust despite the pain and struggle?
9. What times, stories, events, or activities have helped build your faith in the past?
10. What can we do in times of doubt or fear that will help us turn to Jesus and increase our faith?
11. Where do you go or what do you do when life gets you down? Why?
12. How can we help and encourage one another when they do not see an immediate response to prayer? When they don't see a miracle?

## Challenge

Make a commitment to reach out to someone that you know is struggling, hurting, lonely, isolated, or confused. If possible, spend time with them to share a meal, snack, or coffee. If not possible, give them a call.

**End Your Group Time in Prayer**