



## Come and See... Deeper Study Notes

### The Second Sign (John 4:43-54)

- Faith is not about you believing in something that does not exist – which would make you insane – it is about whether your relationship with God is grounded in that which is real. It is about whether you know the Creator of the universe, his Son and the work of the Spirit. Relationships take work; how are you doing on this front? Have you started...stalled...gone stale...sailing high? What is getting in the way/helping?
- The royal official reminds us that prayer is a powerful weapon (Eph 6:18, James 5:16-18). His prayer demonstrates him bringing a practical circumstance (cf. Phil 4:6) before Jesus with a passion for change (cf. Gen 32:26) with a dogged persistence (cf. Luke 11:5-13). Are there things in our lives we need to bring back to Jesus in prayer in a similar way?
- Numbers 23:19 reminds us that God is not like us and will never break a single one of his promises. On the next page is a list of promises found in God's word. Why not choose one verse each day in the week to meditate on and remind you of how valuable you are in the sight of God.

### Deeper Study Questions

- Why does Jesus perform 'signs' if he doesn't want people to follow him for the wrong reasons?
- In what ways can we sometimes be guilty of following Jesus for the wrong reasons?
- What does it mean to say to a friend you have faith in them? Is this any different to saying you have faith in God (see Hebrews 11:1, 6)? *NB this is not a trick question.*
- Look at 1 Peter 1:8-9 and Luke 7:50. What part does *faith* play in our spiritual lives? Now consider, James 1:2-4, what part does *life* play in our faith journey?
- Reflect on the times you've found it easy to 'walk by faith, not by sight' (2 Cor 5:7) and when you've struggled? What did/didn't help during those times?
- In Hebrews 11, various people of faith are highlighted. Take a group of 2-3 characters. Consider what examples are given from their lives that constitute faith. If you have time, take a deeper look at one character's whole life (a quick Google search or cross-reference Bible will help you find the relevant passages). What else do you learn about their ups and downs?
- In this royal official's life we can see faith is a living thing that grows and develops — crisis faith (v46-47), confident faith (v49-50), confirmed faith (v51-53), contagious faith (53b). How might his life be a helpful example?
- Faith is not just theory but involves action. The royal official trusted in Jesus' words and returned home (v50b). Have you experiences of how you've lived by faith and not by sight that you could share/reflect on?

## 7 PROMISES

### I am Forgiven

Psalm 103:8-12  
Isaiah 1:18  
Acts 10:43  
Romans 8:1  
Ephesians 1:7-10  
Colossians 1:13-14  
1 John 1:9

### I am Free

Psalm 118:5  
John 8:36  
Romans 6:6-8  
2 Corinthians 3:17  
Galatians 5:1  
Galatians 5:13  
1 Peter 2:16

### I have Hope

Psalm 25:3  
Psalm 71:5  
Proverbs 23:18  
Lamentations 3:25  
Romans 5:1-5  
2 Corinthians 3:12  
Hebrews 10:23  
1 Peter 1:3-4

### I am Gifted

Romans 12:6-8  
1 Corinthians 12  
Ephesians 4:11-13  
James 1:17  
1 Peter 4:10

### I have a Purpose

Jeremiah 29:11  
Proverbs 16:9  
John 15:16  
Romans 8:28  
Ephesians 2:10

### I am Valuable

Genesis 1:27  
Job 33:4  
Psalm 17:8  
Psalm 139:13-15  
John 3:16  
1 Corinthians 6:19-20  
2 Corinthians 3:5

### I am Blessed

Psalm 32:1-2  
Psalm 144:15  
Galatians 3:8  
Ephesians 1:3  
Romans 10:12-13