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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

I am grateful for science and doctors, but my praise and thanksgiving go to God, who designed an orderly universe and who created us with minds that can discover how it works. I believe, therefore, that all healing is divine because no healing takes place apart from God.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Father God, You are the Great Physician, and I ask for healing, whether mind, body, spirit, or in all of these. I believe You will give what is best. Thank You for Your goodness, kindness, and love in all things.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you
(Exod 15:26 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 19, 2015)

Series: The Gift of Faith

UNIT: Restorative Faith

NEXT WEEK

Saving Faith
(Luke 7:36-50)

Amazing Faith

Luke 7:1-10

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines the truth about a story of **Amazing Faith** that led to a healing. The **study's aim** is to recognize the importance of faith and God's will when praying for healing. The **study's application** is to pray for people's physical needs with full confidence that the Lord Jesus can heal.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Have you ever wished that God would simply prove himself to you—prove that he exists, that he loves you, that he has power over your problems—by doing some great thing that would undeniably reveal his presence? We've all felt that way, particularly in times when we realize that we don't have much or any control over negative circumstances. Perhaps this is why serious illness, either our own or that of a loved one, often brings out both the greatest faith in God and the greatest frustration with Him. Experiences of this kind test not only our faith in God but also our very understanding of faith itself. While we may think that some personalized, visible sign of God's existence and power would make our faith stronger, the author of Hebrews defines faith as "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (11:1). If faith is indeed belief in something we have not yet achieved or experienced, would some visible "proof" of God's existence actually make our faith stronger, or would it simply turn faith into a form of scientific knowledge? And if we wonder why God has not answered our prayers for healing, does our disappointment mean that we really don't believe in him? Today's lesson tells of an encounter between Jesus and a man who was very much like many of us. The man was a Roman soldier, a person who doubtless had faced death on many occasions. But one day he found himself standing helplessly by the bedside of a beloved household member whose life was ebbing away. Circumstances of this kind can be the truest test of one's heart and convictions. The Bible records many stories in which Jesus heals someone, and two aspects of today's passage are unusual in that regard. One relates to the nature of the healing itself. Luke 7:1-10 is one of only three instances recorded where Jesus healed someone from a distance—that is, the person who was healed was not in the presence of Jesus when the healing occurred. (The other two distance-healings are recorded in Matthew 15:21-28 and John 4:46-54; some think the account in John and that in today's text are one and the same, but that is doubtful.) The second unusual aspect relates to the nature of the individual who requested the healing in today's lesson: he was a Gentile, and a Roman centurion at that. The Gospels very rarely show Jesus interacting with Gentiles, and in fact record him stating that his mission was focused on Israel (Matthew 10:5, 6; 15:24-26). A centurion was a Roman officer in command of a company of 100 soldiers (compare the English word century, a span of 100 years). The Romans began to rule over the land of Israel in 63 BC, and in Jesus' day the Roman army was an occupation force that maintained law and order. Units of soldiers, commanded by centurions and stationed in local neighborhoods, were the backbone of Rome's program to control the Jewish population.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

PLEA OF FAITH (LUKE 7:1-3)

A critical need (1-2)

A critical need that seeks the pity of God (Mark 9:21-24)

A critical need that seeks God to be willing to help
(Luke 5:12-13)

A critical need that seeks the One who is the only way into Heaven (Luke 13:23-25)

Hearing about Jesus (3)

Hearing about Jesus through preaching (Rom 10:14)

Hearing about Jesus through the Word of God
(John 20:31)

Hearing about Jesus through witnesses (Acts 26:17-18)

Hearing about Jesus through the gospel (Rom 16:25)

Requesting Jesus' healing (3)

Requesting Jesus' willingness to heal (Matt 8:2-3)

Requesting Jesus' healing through touching (Matt 9:20-22)

Requesting Jesus' healing through His mercy (Matt 9:27-29)

WORKS OF FAITH (LUKE 7:4-5)

Works of worthiness (4)

Works of worthiness through doing good works (Col 1:10)

Works of worthiness through God's calling (Eph 4:1-2)

Works of worthiness through godly conduct (Phil 1:27)

Works of good deeds (5)

Works of good deeds through living a good life (1 Peter 2:12)

Works of good deeds done in humility and wisdom
(James 3:13)

Works of good deeds in family life (1 Tim 5:10)

Works of good deeds through the encouragement of God (2 Thess 2:16-17)

WISDOM OF FAITH (LUKE 7:6-8)

Wisdom of humility (6)

Humility through grace (James 4:6)

Humility before God (James 4:10)

Humility by considering others interest before ours
(Phil 2:2-4)

Humility that is not false (Col 2:17-19)

Wisdom of acknowledging Jesus' authority (7-8)

Authority because God put all things under Jesus' power (John 13:3)

Authority because Jesus has all authority (Matt 28:18)

Authority because God exalted Jesus above all powers (Eph 1:20-21)

Authority Jesus is Lord of all (Phil 2:9-11)

GOD'S RESPONSE TO FAITH (LUKE 7:9-10)

Recognition and commendation of faith (9)

Faith beyond cultural boundaries (Matt 15:25-28)

Faith without wavering that God has the power (Rom 4:19-22)

Faith combined with love that is growing (2 Thess 1:3-4)

Faith that starts with giving of ourselves (2 Cor 8:1-5)

Response of healing (10)

Response of healing because Jesus is the only power that heals (Acts 4:7-10)

Response of healing because of humble prayer and repentance (2 Chron 7:14-15)

Response of healing through faith (Acts 3:16)