

## **THE SECOND SIGN: HEALING AN OFFICIAL'S SON**

John 4:46-54

### **DISCUSSION 1**

The second sign

1. Review this week's passage and John 4 in general, with a particular focus on the geography. From where did Jesus come (John 4:1-4), and where was he going? Why did he leave his own country (probably Judea in the south)? Where have we heard of Cana before in John?
2. This is the second miracle John records Jesus doing—the first being when he turned water into wine. Compare and contrast the two. Considering Jesus's actions and attitude during these miracles, what can we learn about him?
3. Was the official's request of Jesus reasonable (v. 47)? Would you have done that? Why or why not?
4. In verse 48, Jesus seems to rebuke the official and others (by using the plural "you") for relying on signs to believe. What in the text helps us see that the official may not have been just a sign seeker, but a believer?

### **DISCUSSION 2**

Faith at work

1. The official then asked Jesus a second time to come down and heal his son. What does this reveal about the official's understanding of the conditions of healing? In his opinion, when and where does it need to happen? Is he right? Do you ever think like that when praying?
2. Why do you think the official's servants went to meet him, rather than waiting until he got home? What can we learn from their actions?
3. The word "believe" is used several times in this passage. Look at the timing and people it references. What can you learn from these instances?

## DISCUSSION 3

How should we respond?

1. Do you demand that Jesus does things your way? How can you apply the actions of the official to your prayer life?
2. How do you respond when God answers prayer? While this story has what we would call a “good ending,” how can you believe even when God’s answers are not what you would choose?
3. The official’s faith went beyond just him. Who else believed, and what does this teach us about the effects of our faith as it relates to others?

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

1. Act out the story as a family, each person portraying one of the characters (the sick son, the official, Jesus, and the servants). Afterward, discuss the story. Who had the best job?
2. Together, think of some individuals you know who are sick. Take time to pray for them. Remind your children that God’s timing may not be ours and there is healing in the resurrection.
3. Ask your family: Are there times when we get frustrated by Jesus—when he does not seem to listen or give us what we want? How can we overcome our lack of faith? Do we remember God’s answers to prayer? Make a list of recent answers to prayer (like healing from a cold or safety in travel).

## APPLICATION

- Spend time sharing ways God has answered prayers in your life. Share both the answers you received in joy and those that were difficult to receive.
- Write down at least three prayers you would like God to answer. Begin praying over these requests with desperation, consistency, confidence, and hope. Be sure to track your thoughts throughout this time of prayer by journaling and/or confiding in someone you trust.