

How Much Faith?

How much faith do you have? As children, you may not have already decided to follow Jesus and you may not have been baptized into Christ. That is ok. As a young person you need to learn as much as possible about Jesus and you learn that by coming to know the Word of God. In Romans 10:17 it says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

As you read and, of course, study the Word of God you will grow in your knowledge and faith in Christ. This is a great journey and not a destination.

Jesus grew up in Nazareth, but made Capernaum his home. On one visit to Capernaum a Roman Centurion, a commander, came to see him. The commander said, "Lord, my servant lies at my home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said, "I will go and heal him." The centurion replied, "Lord, I am not good enough to have you come to my house. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."

When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."

Then Jesus said to the Centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would."

Question Time:

1. Did you know that a Centurion was in charge of over 100 soldiers?
2. Did you know that a Centurion from Rome was not a Jew? He was not a Christian, because they did not exist yet.
3. What was it that the Centurion had that caused his servant to be healed?
4. How much faith do you have? Can it be measured?

Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13 New International Version (NIV)

⁵When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶"Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

⁷Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

⁸The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For 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."

¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹²But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹³Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

Next Steps: Ask your parents to set up a reading schedule and try to read all of Matthew, all 28 chapters, in the next three weeks. Wow! Think you can do it?