

Week 4: Meet prior to January 31 Read Luke 7 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke - 7:1-17 Jesus Shows Compassion

Getting Started:

- What was the most significant thing you said or did this week? What made it so?

The Centurion's Servant

Read Luke 7:1-5.

- What is a Centurion?
- How does the Centurion feel about his servant?
- How do the Jewish elders feel about the Centurion? Why?

Read Luke 7:6-10.

- What do the Centurion's words tell us about his understanding of who Jesus is?
- What do you think Jesus admired about the Centurion's faith?
- What does this story tell us about the authority of Jesus and the purpose of his ministry?

The Widow's Son

Read Luke 7:11-13.

- Why is this woman in a desperate situation? *(The people lived in a very different economy and time from us. As a sonless widow she faced absolute poverty. She would most likely die of hunger or the result of homelessness. At best she would experience the humiliation of complete dependency on someone outside her family.)*
- What does Jesus response to her situation in verse 13 tell us about Jesus?

Read Luke 7:14-17.

- What did Jesus do?
- What did the people do?
- What does this story tell us about the authority of Jesus and the purpose of his ministry?

Application:

- What motivated Jesus to heal in each situation?

Authority

- What are the practical things we do that express the authority of Jesus in our lives?

Faith

- How is submission to Jesus' authority a way we show our faith?

Compassion

- One way we express Jesus' authority in our lives is to do what he would do for his reasons. Jesus had compassion for both the rich centurion and the poor widow in this story. Who do you personally know who is in need of compassion? How can you offer His compassion to this person this week?

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Pray for faith in Jesus' authority in a specific situation where you need it this week.
- Pray for Jesus' compassion to shine through you in a specific relationship where you need it this week.