

A TALE OF A CERTAIN CENTURION—Discussion Guide

(Luke 7:1-10)

REMEMBERING

1. What are/were some of your favorite fairy tales?

REFLECTING

2. What do/did you like about them?

DISCOVERING

3. Read [Luke 7:1-10](#) below and answer the questions that follow.

When he finished speaking to the people, he entered Capernaum. ²A Roman captain there had a servant who was on his deathbed. He prized him highly and didn't want to lose him. ³When he heard Jesus was back, he sent leaders from the Jewish community asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴They came to Jesus and urged him to do it, saying, "He deserves this. ⁵He loves our people. He even built our meeting place."

⁶Jesus went with them. When he was still quite far from the house, the captain sent friends to tell him, "Master, you don't have to go to all this trouble. I'm not that good a person, you know. I'd be embarrassed for you to come to my house, ⁷even embarrassed to come to you in person. Just give the order and my servant will get well. ⁸I'm a man under orders; I also give orders. I tell one soldier, 'Go,' and he goes; another, 'Come,' and he comes; my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

⁹Taken aback, Jesus addressed the accompanying crowd: "I've yet to come across this kind of simple trust anywhere in Israel, the very people who are supposed to know about God and how he works." ¹⁰When the messengers got back home, they found the servant up and well. (The Message)

- Which elements of this story seem like they could fit in a fairy-tale?
- With what qualities of the centurion are you most impressed and why?
- What do you learn about Jesus from this historical tale?

CONNECTING

4. Take a moment to read and reflect on the Buechner quote below. On a scale of 1-10—1 being extremely skeptical and 10 being absolutely convinced—how would you rate your current willingness to believe that *"the marvelous and impossible thing truly happens"* in our world?

RESPONDING

5. What is something specific for which you are currently trusting God that others in the group could be praying about for you in the coming week?

It is perhaps this aspect of the fairy tale that gives it its greatest power over us, this sense we have that in that world, as distinct from ours, the marvelous and impossible thing truly happens.

- Frederick Buechner, *Telling the Truth*