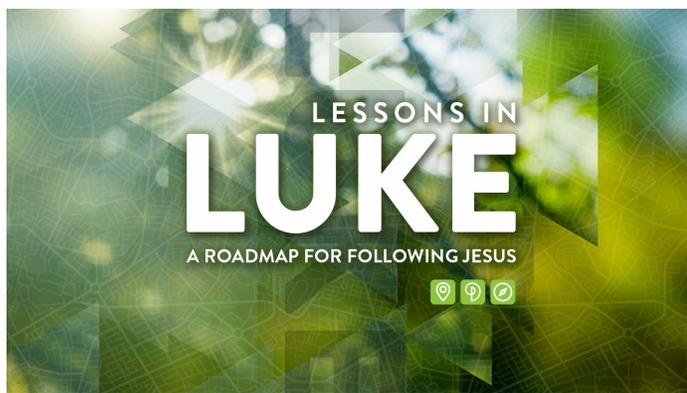


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Faith

May 30, 2021

We live in a culture that is not predominately Christian anymore. This may cause us anxiety, but Jesus calls us to welcome the stranger. To truly welcome people who aren't like us, we need to humble ourselves – let go of our preconceptions and our power – and hear what they have to teach us.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 7:1-10

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

There are people from other faiths and no faiths. They don't follow Jesus and yet, they have a lot to teach Jesus Followers, you and me, about what discipleship looks like. This story centers on just such a person, a Roman centurion. The story goes like this: a beloved servant of this Roman centurion becomes sick. The centurion had heard about Jesus, so he sent some highly respected Jewish elders to Jesus for help. An interesting note about the relationship between the elders and the centurion was that it was a good one. They apparently got a long so well that the centurion paid for their synagogue. These elders get to Jesus and they begin to beg Jesus to heal the servant. Jesus had compassion and so he begins to go back with the elders to the servant but as they are on the way, they run into still more servants of the centurion who say to Jesus, speaking on behalf of the centurion, "Lord, don't trouble yourself by coming to my house. I'm not worthy to even meet you. Just say the word and my servant will be healed." Jesus turned to everyone present and commented, "I haven't seen faith like this anywhere, not even in Israel."

Perhaps there are some modern day centurions that can teach us a thing or two about how to follow Jesus. Let's consider these three practices that the centurion embodies in our story for today: curiosity, humility, and faithfulness. If we do these things, we will grow deeper in our faith and more connected in this world than we have ever been. And isn't that what this church is about—Connection?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you spent any time learning about other faiths? Why or why not?
- What is Jesus teaching us in this passage?
- What can we learn from the centurion?
- How can curiosity, humility, and faithfulness lead us to more connection with others?

APPLICATION: This week, consider how you can get curious, get humble, and get faithful. What would it look like for you to connect with someone outside of the church and learn from them?