

**Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**“Lessons from Jesus”**

**“Recognizing Christ’s Authority”**

Sermon text: **Matthew 8:5-13**; Old Testament Text: **Psalms 115:1-11**; New Testament Text: **Ephesians 1:15-23**.

Read **Matthew 8:5-13** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. What was the significance of *Capernaum*?
2. What was a *centurion*?
3. What did the centurion want Jesus to do for him?
4. How did Jesus respond to the centurion’s initial request?
5. In your own words, tell me what the centurion said in *Matthew 8:8-9*?
6. Why was Jesus so surprised by what the centurion said in these verses?



### **Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting**

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 115:1-11** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. According to **Psalm 115:1**, why is the name of God deserving of glory?
  2. According to **Psalm 115:2-3**, what should *the nations* know about our God?
  3. After reading **Psalm 115:4**, why is it amazing that anyone could believe idols could accomplish anything?
  4. After reading **Psalm 115:5-7**, what kind of person would it take to worship an idol?
  5. We Americans are too cultured to bow down to the created images described in **Psalm 115:4-7**. What things have we raised up as idols in this country?
  6. Read **Psalm 115:8**. According to this verse, what is the fate of all *who make and trust in idols*?
  7. According to **Psalm 115:9-11**, why should we trust in the Lord?
- II. Next read **Ephesians 1:15-23**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions.
1. According to **Ephesians 1:15**, what two things have the Ephesians been doing that have inspired the apostle Paul to *give thanks for them and remember them in his prayers*?
  2. When Paul asks God to give the Ephesians the *Spirit of wisdom and revelation*, what is he asking God to give them?
  3. Paul lists four things he is praying to happen to the Ephesians in **Ephesians 1:18-20**. What are they?
  4. Name some of the truths we learn about Jesus in **Ephesians 1:20-23**.
  5. How might you use this passage to pray powerfully for unbelievers?
- III. Read **Matthew 8:5-13**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. What was the significance of *Capernaum*?
  2. What was a *centurion*?
  3. What did the centurion want Jesus to do for him?
  4. How did Jesus respond to the centurion's initial request?
  5. In your own words, tell me what the centurion said in **Matthew 8:8-9**?
  6. Why was Jesus so surprised by what the centurion said in these verses?

7. Who is Jesus talking about when He said, *I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven?*
8. What is the *table* referred to in *Matthew 8:11* pointing to?
9. Who is Jesus talking about in *Matthew 8:12*, when He refers to *the sons of the kingdom?*
10. What does Jesus warn will happen to many of *the sons of the kingdom?*
11. In *Matthew 8:15*, Jesus said to the centurion, “*Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.*” How could those words be used to describe everything we receive from God in our times of need?