



INTRODUCTION

While believing in Jesus *gives* us hope, Christianity is not *based* on hope or blind faith. It's based on evidence. As an eyewitness to many of Jesus' miracles, the apostle John reminds us that the supernatural feats of Jesus are not just random acts of kindness meant to help and inspire people. They are signs that give evidence for who Jesus is.

When we find that our life is on the edge and we are staring into an unknown (much like our world today) we are faced with a question: What do you really believe? It's one of the most important questions we can answer because our belief drives everything we do. But sometimes that means we have to take a step, be honest and objectively answer it for ourselves. Jesus speaks into this through His second sign, the healing of a royal official's son from Capernaum.

PART 1

VIDEO NOTES

Have you ever prayed, "God, if you just come through for me right now, then I will believe!" Throughout our lives, we look for signs that there is Someone out there who is listening, Someone who is able to help when we feel helpless, Someone who is bigger than our finite selves. All of us, at some point in time, have to come to answer this question for ourselves: *What do I really believe?*

Everybody believes **something**.
Not everybody believes something on **purpose**.

The royal official had to decide what to do with Jesus' words about his son. In this story, he had to take a step of faith — to go back home without Jesus, but only His Word. After he starts his

journey home, his servants come to meet him with the evidence that what Jesus said was the truth was actually true.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Do you remember a situation in your life growing up where you thought to yourself: "God, if you just come through for me right now, I will believe..."? (This could be humorous or serious or one of each.)
2. Why do you think it's easy, in our modern-day society, to go through life and check the "none" box when it comes to belief?
3. Have you ever experienced a situation that has caused you to question your belief? (Perhaps you are experiencing something like that right now...)
4. Read John 4:46-54, the story of the second sign. What sticks out to you in this narrative? Where do you find yourself relating with the royal official in his fear of an uncertain future?
5. If someone were to ask you what you really believe in, what would you say and why? Have you honestly and objectively answered that question in your life?
6. What questions or hesitations do you have in your faith when it comes to believing and trusting that what God says is true despite not knowing what tomorrow holds?

THIS WEEK

What does it look like for you to take a new step (or perhaps a first step) in trusting that God really does have the whole world in his hands? What hangs in the balance of your willingness to take that step? If you're looking for a good book to read during this series, pick up *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.

"In this world you will have **trouble**. But take **heart**! I have **overcome** the world."

John 16:33