

***“Breakthrough!” in 2022***

# **GROWTH + GROUPS**

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 07.31.2022

FROM FAITH TO FAITH – JOHN 4:43-54

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

In today’s story we get to see Jesus grow one man’s faith in Him. There are degrees of faith, and we’re going to see a man go from one level of faith to another. God wants to do the same thing with you. The Bible says that God wants to take you from ‘glory to glory’ and from ‘faith to faith.’ What that means is, whatever level of faith you are operating in today, God wants to take you further. How does He do that? He has many methods, but one of the ways He does it is by allowing trials to come into our lives. As it turns out, the difficulties of life are the perfect soil to grow mature faith. Let’s get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most or spoke to you from the message this last weekend?
2. Share a time when you’ve prayed that God would heal someone. What happened?
3. How did this challenge or change your faith?

All throughout the Bible, God is described as compassionate. He cares deeply for His people. But many struggle to believe this. When we have difficult circumstances arise, when we lose a job, when we or a loved one gets horribly sick—sometimes it’s hard to believe that God really is as compassionate as He says He is. But God’s Word is trustworthy. When God says He is compassionate, He really is. In Jesus’ second sign in John’s Gospel, we see God’s compassion on full display—not so we can respond by being impressed, but by trusting fully in Him.

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 4:43-45

1. Read verses 43-45. Where did the event in this passage take place? Where had Jesus spent two days? What had happened there?
2. What kind of reception did he receive when he arrived in Galilee? What does verse 44 mean? Why was Jesus not so pleased with the Galilean welcome? (48; Jn 2:23-25)

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 4:46-48

In the passages leading up this incident, Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding in a Cana, and shared the gospel with both a religious leader and a social outcast. In this passage, Jesus was approached by a man from an entirely different part of the social sphere: a Roman official.

1. What would make the official think Jesus could heal his son?
2. What misconceptions did he have about Jesus’ power to heal?
3. How would you describe the belief he had at this point?

When Jesus told the official, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe,” He was saying something important. The official believed that Jesus could perform wonders, and that seems to be what His faith was in. He didn’t trust Jesus,

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but only His power. Likewise, many may see the signs and wonders Jesus performed and marvel, but not direct their amazement toward the One performing the wonders.

1. Read Matthew 12:39 and Matthew 16:4. What’s your reaction to Jesus’ calling those who seek after signs as being part of an evil and adulterous generation?
2. What’s the danger in seeking after signs, but not the One who performs them?
3. How do Jesus’ words challenge you personally?

Jesus’ words challenge us as much today as they did His original hearers. Signs and wonders are not bad in and of themselves—Jesus used signs and wonders to reveal Himself to His people. Many throughout His ministry and the ministry of the apostles came to faith in part because of miraculous deeds. But we are not to put our trust in the miracle—that trust belongs to God. We seek Him, not what He can do for us. And this was what the official would learn as well.

### **HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 4:49-50.**

1. How is the man’s faith different at this point in the conversation than it was when the conversation with Jesus began?

There’s a definite shift in the official. He had become desperate. He wanted His son to be saved from death. He was undoubtedly a man of means—medical assistance would not have been an issue for him. But whatever options he’d tried to bring healing to his son had failed. Jesus had become his only hope.

2. Does Jesus want us to see Him as our only hope? Why?

3. When performing His first sign, Jesus was reluctant to act. Was Jesus reluctant to heal the official’s son? Read verse 50 again. What is important about the way Jesus responded to the official?

Jesus was not sending the man away begrudgingly. God delights in answering the prayers of His people. Jesus spoke here with a confidence that comes not with knowing something would happen, but being the One who caused it to happen.

4. Verse 50 says the man believed the word that Jesus spoke. What does that tell us about where he was putting his faith?

### **HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 4:51-54.**

1. Why was the time the boy began to improve of significance to the father? How might that fact have affected his faith?
2. How is the man’s faith different at this point than it was when he started his journey to bring Jesus to his son?

When the man left Jesus, he was trusting His word was true. When he returned home to the news that his son was better, he did something peculiar: he didn’t immediately rejoice in the good news. Instead, he asked when he got better. When he heard the time, he saw his faith had been validated.

3. Why would the man’s household become believers?

This story doesn’t end simply on the good news of the official’s son being made well. The entire household put their trust in Jesus! And an important truth is revealed in their faith: the gospel is for everyone who trusts in Him. There is no one who is excluded, no people group, no social class, no one. The gospel is for everyone, and that is the greatest act of compassion God could ever have shown us.

### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Moments of personal crisis are often the thing that God uses to drive people to Himself. It’s been said that there are no atheists in foxholes. That saying stems from the fact that even the most hardened atheists will begin to**

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pray in the heat of battle. So too, oftentimes when we face crises, it drives us to the Lord in prayer. In this case the crisis was a dying son. For you maybe it was a divorce or a lost job or a sick parent or an unfavorable diagnosis. Maybe that’s why you’re in church today. You weren’t looking for God, but you’ve hit rock bottom or something dramatic has happened in your life and it has you seeking the Lord.

1. What experiences can you recall that have helped your faith to grow?
2. What are one or two practical ways you can help yourself grow in your trust for the Lord?
3. Who will you share this with this week?

PRAYER -Thank God for revealing His compassion in the healing of the official’s son and for the greatest act of compassion of all—Jesus’ death and resurrection, giving new life to all who trust in Him.

*“Call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.” {Psalm 50:15}*

### **Have you ever heard of P.U.S.H. praying?**

**Push praying means you pray until something happens. God is faithful. He hears, He listens, and He answers. His timing is not always our timing and His ways are not our ways. But don’t give up. Even if the answer doesn’t come right away, God will always answer in His time and in His way and according to His will.**

### **Are you holding on to the promises of God?**

- **Maybe you’re struggling financially and God’s calling you to lean back into the promise that He will ‘provide all of your needs according to His riches in Christ.’ {Philippians 4:19}**
- **Maybe you’re struggling to believe that God has forgiven you and He’s calling you to lean back on the word that says, ‘As far as the east is from the west, that’s how far He has removed our transgressions from us.’ {Psalm 103:12}**
- **Maybe you’re struggling with believing that God has a plan for your life and He’s calling you to lean back on the word that says, ‘I know the thoughts that I think towards you says the Lord; thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.’ {Jeremiah 29:11}**
- **Maybe you’re struggling with feelings of loneliness and He’s calling you to lean back on the word that says, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ {Deuteronomy 31:6}**