

# 7

# SIGNS

JESUS REVEALED IN  
THE BOOK OF JOHN

## **SESSION 2:**

# **JESUS HEALS THE ROYAL OFFICIAL'S SON**



In this series, we discover seven signs of Jesus in the gospel of John. Water turns into wine, one lunch feeds 5000 hungry bellies, people are healed, and a man four-days-dead is raised to life! Are these random miraculous acts, or do they point to something more? Together we will explore what these miracles tell us about who Jesus is. Today, Jesus heals a royal official's son.



## Share

- Who is someone you trust a lot? Why do you trust them?
- What's the longest trip you've taken to help someone or solve a problem?
- Have you ever trusted in what someone told you about something, even though you had no proof?



## Pray

Before we read today's Scripture, let's pray together.

*Pray that the Holy Spirit would speak to us through God's Word.*



## Read

Read John 4:46-54.

*You might like to read it in a couple of different translations.*

<sup>46</sup> While Jesus was in Galilee, he returned to the village of Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was an official in Capernaum whose son was sick. <sup>47</sup> And when the man heard that Jesus had come from Judea, he went and begged him to keep his son from dying.

<sup>48</sup> Jesus told the official, "You won't have faith unless you see miracles and wonders!"

<sup>49</sup> The man replied, "Lord, please come before my son dies!"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus then said, "Your son will live. Go on home to him." The man believed Jesus and started back home.

<sup>51</sup> Some of the official's servants met him along the road and told him, "Your son is better!" <sup>52</sup> He asked them when the boy got better, and they answered, "The fever left him yesterday at one o'clock." <sup>53</sup> The boy's father realized that at one o'clock the day before, Jesus had told him, "Your son will live!" So the man and everyone in his family put their faith in Jesus. <sup>54</sup> This was the second miracle that Jesus worked after he left Judea and went to Galilee.

*(Contemporary English Version)*

<sup>46</sup> Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

<sup>48</sup> "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

<sup>49</sup> The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

<sup>50</sup> "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live."

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. <sup>51</sup> While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. <sup>52</sup> When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the

fever left him.” <sup>53</sup> Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.

<sup>54</sup> This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

*(New International Version)*



## Share

- As a group, have a go at retelling the story in your own words.
- The father was a nobleman – someone with high social status. He was probably used to giving people orders rather than running his own errands. But when it comes to the life of his son, he travels a long distance (about 32 kilometres) to beg for Jesus’ help. Why do you think he does this? What feelings or thoughts do you think he had as he travelled?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you were desperate for Jesus’ help? What was that like for you?
- In verse 48, Jesus says, “You won’t have faith unless you see miracles and wonders!”<sup>1</sup> He was challenging those who followed him to see a spectacle, just as we might go to a magic show. Why do you think Jesus challenges this kind of behaviour?
- “Signs and wonders from God are obviously good things, but they should not form the foundation of our faith.”<sup>2</sup> What do you think this means?
- Have you ever witnessed a sign or wonder from God? How did it build your faith or understanding of Jesus?
- Jesus doesn’t go with the man. Instead, he asks the man to trust that his son had been healed. Why do you think Jesus does this?

---

<sup>1</sup> John 4:48 (CEV)

<sup>2</sup> [Enduring Word Bible Commentary John Chapter 4](#)



- The man believes Jesus when he says, “Your son will live”<sup>3</sup> and starts his journey back home. If you were in this father’s shoes, do you think you would have found it easy to trust without evidence? Why/why not?
- Have you ever found it difficult to trust Jesus’ promises before you have evidence?
- Later, the man’s servants tell him that his son was healed at one o’clock – the same time Jesus had said, “Your son will live”.<sup>4</sup> What does this tell us about Jesus’ power? How do you think this would have strengthened the man’s faith in Jesus?
- What are some experiences that have strengthened your faith in Jesus?
- How does this story speak into your life, today?



## Pray

*Spend some time in silence while listening to anything the Holy Spirit is saying.*

*Then spend some time praying, in faith, for each other.*

---

<sup>3</sup> John 4:50 (CEV)

<sup>4</sup> John 4:50 (CEV)

## Notes

[illegible]