

In both of these stories Jesus is declaring that He not only provides for our daily needs, but that He provides for eternal life. Often our immediate needs obscure our greater, eternal needs. Jesus is not only interested in providing for us here on earth, He wants to give us a full and abundant eternal life as well.

### 3. Is Jesus Enough?

Jesus fed 5,000, healed the official's son, and a lame man by the pool at Bethesda. But Jesus' greatest gift is forgiveness of sins and a relationship with the Eternal God.

*What if He doesn't answer your prayers the way you hoped He would? Is Jesus enough for you without the miracles? Is your faith based only on what you can see or are you able to reply as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did when thrown in the furnace?*

*Daniel 3:18 NLT - 18 But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."*

### WRAP-UP

Jesus performed signs that helped many to believe. But He was also able to do God's will through the power of His words. Are we able to believe what Jesus said even without seeing the evidence? Are Jesus' promises of eternal life and a relationship with Him enough even if we never see a miracle? Will we follow Him even if He doesn't answer our prayers as we hoped He would?

### MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."  
- John 6:35 NLT*

### PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

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*Challenge- Continue reading through the book of John. This week read chapters 4-6.*

## ***"Hearing is Believing"*** **Believe and Have Life #3**

### INTRODUCTION

The book of John gives us so many signs that can lead us to faith in Jesus, it is hard to imagine how many John had to leave out. But this week as we focus on one of these events, we see that, even though there were visible signs revealing who Jesus was, Jesus challenged the faith of those seeking a sign to believe what they heard from witnesses and more importantly, to believe what He said.

### Ice Breaker

When you read or hear a fantastic story, do you tend to believe it, or are you more likely to check it out?

### Key Passage

*John 20:30-31 NLT - 30 The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.*

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### 1. The Official's Son

*John 4:46-47 NLT - 46 As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.*

When Jesus returned to Cana, where he had quietly turned water into wine, many since had become aware of who He was and some of the

things He had done. And so, we find a royal official has sought out Jesus with a desperate request to heal his son.

*Have you had a moment of extreme crisis in your life that changed the way you prayed? If so, share what happened.*

When we come to a point of desperation, like this man has, we cling to the hope that God will hear us and respond to our request. At those times we find out what our core beliefs really are.

*What two things did the official ask Jesus to do? Did Jesus do both?*

The official believed Jesus had the power to heal but assumed that he had to be present to heal his son. That seems logical. But Jesus's response would challenge this man's faith even farther.

*John 4:48-50 NLT - 48 Jesus asked, "Will **you** never believe in me unless **you** see miraculous signs and wonders?" 49 The official pleaded, "Lord, please come now before my little boy dies." 50 Then Jesus told him, "Go back home. Your son will live!" And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.*

Jesus' response appears to be a rebuke of the official, but in fact Jesus was addressing the observers. (That "**you**" is plural, as in "all of you") He was being watched but this time it was the power of Jesus' words that they saw.

The official was clearly expecting Jesus to go to *Capernaum*, but Jesus went straight to the heart of what he was seeking, He extended healing and life to the boy by the power of His word alone. The official had to choose whether or not to believe life-giving power of Jesus' word even if he hadn't seen the evidence of it. He believed.

*Believing God's word when you don't see the evidence will test your faith. Is there something in your life that you have been seeking God for but you haven't seen the evidence that God is moving? What have you found in the bible that would give you hope that God will respond to your prayers? Have others joined you in seeking God and encouraged you as you trust and wait on God? Share those prayer requests with your group and commit to support one another in prayer.*

## 2. I Am

There were several occasions that Jesus declared Himself as tangible expressions of God's "I Am" names. Two appear in these chapters of John.

*In Samaria Jesus approached a woman seeking water. What is it He offers her? What does her answer reveal about why she wants it? In verse 25 what is it she expects from the Christ when He comes?*

*John 4:14-15, 25-26 NLT - 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." 15 "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water." ... 25 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming--the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"*

Jesus knew the needs of this woman. She likely was coming alone to the well at mid-day because she was rejected by her village, possibly because of the many men Jesus spoke to her about. She labored under shame and guilt, and she thirsted to be free of that. Her hope was in an all-knowing Messiah who could make sense of life. When Jesus declared himself that Messiah, she shared the good news with the people of Samaria. And as a result of hearing her story they believed.

*Have you heard the story of someone who was set free from shame and guilt by Jesus? What makes those testimonies especially compelling?*

*John 6:26, 34-35 NLT - 26 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. ... 34 "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day." 35 Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

*Shortly after multiplying the loaves and fish to feed the 5,000 Jesus confronts a crowd looking for more bread. He declares I Am the bread of life. What parallel do you see between this encounter and the woman at the well?*