

Connect Group Notes

Sermon: Encounters with Jesus: Desperate Civil Servant

Reading: John 4:43-54

Date: 3rd May 2026 (AM)

What encouragements / answers to prayer / opportunities have you had this week? Spend a few minutes sharing personal prayer requests and praying for one another.

As ever these are simply a guide for where you might begin your discussions. The main focus for this week should be around v50b 'the man took Jesus at his word'. All the questions are aimed to fuel discussion around how we do this in our own lives.

- 1) With the person next to you discuss the following: a friend says to you – 'what does it mean to have faith?' – how might you reply?
- 2) Read John 4:43-48. What do you think these verses reveal about faith? (*The crowd want to see signs and wonders... but Jesus is reminding them that faith in him isn't just about those outwards signs... but an inner trust*)
- 3) Read John 4:49-54. What would you say about the faith of the royal official? How does it evolve through his interactions with Jesus?

Leader says: if faith is taking Jesus at his word there seems to be two parts which are key for our own lives. Firstly that we spend some time getting to know Jesus and his word. Secondly that we listen to and believe what he says.

- 4) On your best day – what helps you to hear and digest the words of Jesus/God?
- 5) On your best day – what helps you take Jesus at his word and put it into practice?
- 6) Review: again with the person next to you discuss the following: a friend says to you – 'what does it mean to have faith?' – how might you reply now in light of John 4?

Pray for one another and for our wider church family that we would be people who increasingly prioritise engaging with God's word and taking it into our hearts and practices day by day.