

"Unless you people see signs and wonders you will not believe," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." John 4:48 NIV

'The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."' John 4:49 NIV

2. A _____ faith.

'Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed.' John 4:50 NIV

He walked home by _____ and not by _____.

3. A _____ faith.

'While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living.' John 4:51 NIV

'When he enquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour."' John 4:52 NIV

'Then the father realised that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed.' John 4:53 NIV

'This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee.' John 4:54 NIV

Walking by _____.

'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.' John 20:29 NIV



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. What's an example of something you believe (or believed) based solely on what someone else told you about it?
2. Tragedy can often cause people (even those who claim to not believe in God) to look up—whether it's questioning or shaking our fists. Why do you think that is?
3. Read John 4:46–54.
 - How familiar is this story to you? Is there anything you just read that stands out as new information?
 - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe that this actually happened?
 - In verse 48, what seems to be Jesus' main motivation for performing this miracle?
 - In verse 53, what type of emotion do you think the official had when he realized his son was being healed at the same time he had been talking to Jesus?
 - John tells us that the official and his entire household believed. How was this miracle not just a random act of kindness, but more of a strategic plan by Jesus?
4. The official was desperate for Jesus to personally come to his son, but instead he ended up going home without Jesus. He didn't know for sure his son was healed until he was told later. In what ways does our entire life here mirror that one day that the leader had to wait until he got word that his son was healed?
5. In what circumstances in your own life do you find it hard to believe God could be at work? How does this story help you to trust that God is working in your life even when you don't see it immediately?
6. The testimony of others is what prompted the leader to seek Jesus for help. How might our testimonies cause people to seek Jesus?

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