



**Week:** 1 - Please

**Date:** Jan. 17, 2021

**Scripture:** Luke 7:1-10 – the faith of a Centurion

**Big Idea:** There's no such thing as "independence." By God's design, we were created "dependent." That means that we need one another not only to survive and meet our needs, but also to thrive and meet our highest ideals – namely, to be connected within the family of God. The one word that starts this process is simple, "please."

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/etRTWqQjTOo>

**Preparation:** Mom and/or dad, take time to prepare well for this spiritual experience with your son or daughter and perhaps their friends. Proper preparation includes reading through this guide, setting up a comfortable environment, preparing the videos, materials (*everyone will need a Bible, pen and notebook/journal*) and snacks, and prayer. It also includes giving your participants time to prepare as well. Let them know in advance what you want to do and then remind them a few minutes before your start time so that they are ready too.

Interactive game / activity

- @Home: [Single Letter Switch](#)  
Using this [Google Slides presentation](#), students will be given the song lyric from a popular song with a single letter switched in each lyric. It's a race to see who can guess the lyric and song title first.

**Activity Debrief:** (This would be a good time to pass out snacks)

If you could be any character from any animated movie, which would you choose? Why?

**Video Teaching:** [4Words - Please](#)

*"Today we begin a new year of Student Ministry and a new series called "4Words." The idea is this – if we're going to move forwards this year, there are four-words that we need to speak regularly. These four words are please, thanks, yes, and no. Tonight we begin with "Please." Before we start, let me ask you... **in how many languages can we say the word, "Please?"***

Play the video [HERE](#)



### Ice Breakers:

- If you could ask Jesus just one question, (not asking for something, but an answer to a question) what would you ask him? What do you think his answer might be?
- If you could ask Jesus to do one thing for you, what would you ask? *"Jesus, please \_\_\_\_\_."*

### Discussion Starters:

- What are some common needs that students have today?
  - Which needs are easiest to have met? Why?
  - Which needs are hardest to meet? Why?
- Do you find it easy or hard to ask for help from...
  - a. A parent?      b. a friend?      c. a teacher?      d. the church/pastor?      e. God?      f. Siri?
  - Why do you think it's hard to ask some of these people for help?
  - How often do you ask God for help? What types of things do you ask God for help with?

Scripture: Read James 5:13-16 as a group and consider the questions below.

*<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

### Digging Deeper:

- How does James suggest we ask for help in our times of need? Who should we turn to?
- What stands out in James' instructions regarding prayer, help and healing? Is there anything in his instructions that seems new, strange, or confusing?
- Why do you think it is important for people to reach out to the church elders, pray for one another, confess sins to one another, and generally involve other human beings when turning to God in prayer? (1. God works most often through his people! 2. We are made for relationships! You can also tease this out a bit and discuss the benefits of vulnerability, accountability and openness.)
- What do you think the church would be like if we practiced these instructions more faithfully?
- What do you think our lives would be like if we practiced these instructions more faithfully?

### Application:

- The Centurion turned to the Jewish elders to help him get closer to Jesus. Who would you turn to today to get closer to Jesus?
- Name 1-3 godly people that have been placed in your life that would be good to go to for help.
- What is one of the greater needs in your life today that you could ask for help with.



Closing activity & prayer: choose 1 of the following options to close your time together.

- SINGING: [Jesus I Need You](https://youtu.be/H0qYKr9XhoM), by Hillsong Worship - <https://youtu.be/H0qYKr9XhoM>
- JOURNALING: Take some time to reflect on some of your hopes and needs for 2021 and list them in your journal. When you're done, share this list with a family member or friend and together, pray for one another, asking God to guide you and for your friend/family member to encourage and support you.
- SCRIPTURE: Meditate on and memorize Ephesians 5:21
  - *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."*
- PRAYING: Close your time together in prayer for one another. Share prayer requests and commit to praying for one another throughout the week.