

# THE KING WE NEED

## **Discussion Guide:** The Powerful King for ALL

**Passage:** Luke 7:1-17

**Summary:** As Jesus reenters Capernaum, a centurion sends a delegation to ask for His help to heal his sick servant. He appeals to Jesus based on his worthiness as a generous benefactor in the community. But before Jesus arrives, the centurion sends a second delegation to ask for help, this time saying he's not worthy. His remarkable faith reveals that Jesus doesn't help people because they've proven themselves worthy, but because He deeply cares for them. As He meets the widow in Nain who has just lost her son, this becomes very clear. He is moved physically with deep love for her and helps her when she has nothing to offer Him.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The centurion first appealed to his "worthiness" to receive Jesus' help. He lived in a culture of reciprocity...you helped people if they could help you in return, or were "worthy" of your help. How do you see a culture of reciprocity in our culture today?
2. How does "needing to prove yourself worthy" to others prevent you from actually loving them and receiving their love? What does it look like for you and how does it shape your relationships?
3. How do you sometimes try to prove your worthiness to Jesus to receive His help?
4. Why was Jesus moved with compassion for the widow? Do you think Jesus is moved with that kind of compassion for you? If that's hard to believe, why do you think that is?
5. Most of us either have too low a view of ourselves or too high a view of ourselves. Both flow from the belief that we need to prove ourselves worthy of love and help. Which way do you tend to err? How does having "His view" of you change you?