

## Bible Studies on the “signs” in John’s Gospel

### Study 3: The Official’s Son

1. **Discuss:** Do you work from home in your job? What jobs could a person do from home? What jobs really couldn’t be done from home? Do you know many doctors, nurses, health professionals, or emergency service personnel that work from home? Can you explain this?

#### READ John 4:43-54

2. Jesus leaves Samaria, and goes back to Galilee, to Cana. What do you know about these places, and what is their significance? (verses 43-46; it may also help to look at, Matthew 10:5; Luke 10:25-37; John 2:1-11)
3. What response does Jesus receive from the locals, and what is his assessment of them? (verse 44, 45, 48; also see John 1:11).
4. What does the official want Jesus to do? (v. 47) How serious is the illness? (vv. 47, 49)
5. What do you think motivates Jesus’ response in verse 48 in response to the royal official’s request? [**Note:** The ‘you’ that appears twice in John 4:48 is not a singular ‘you’, but a plural ‘you’: ‘youse’ (in western Sydney idiom), ‘you lot’, ‘you people’]
6. [**If you have time ...** There are some similarities between this account and an incident recorded in Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10. Contrast this other incident with that recorded in Matthew and Luke by listing the differences between them.]
7. What did Jesus do in response to the royal official’s desperate request? (vv. 50, 53)
8. What was the royal official’s response to Jesus? (vv. 50, cf. 53) What can we learn from this about faith?
9. Given that Jesus has ascended to the Father and now ‘works from home’, how can this account encourage us with our desperate requests?
10. The official had to wait until the next day before he could see the results of his mercy mission. In what way is this similar to us who believe in Jesus’ promises today? (see John 20:29; Romans 10:17)
11. Can we expect Jesus to heal everyone we ask him to? Why, or why not? What promises can we expect him to keep for all of us?