

# PEOPLE OF THE PASSION

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WEEK 5

**1.** Pastor Rick shared some facts about what a centurion was, what were they? Who in our society could we compare a centurion to?

Answer – A centurion was a veteran soldier who because of his leadership and skill was put in charge of 100 Roman soldiers. He would have been what we call a “grizzled veteran” and would be very hardened to seeing the suffering of others. We might compare him to a drill sergeant in the marines or perhaps a police officer who has been on the force for years and years and has seen the suffering of others. These people had seen it all and become hardened to the suffering of others as a means of survival.

**2.** What were the four characteristics of the centurion that would keep him from developing healthy relationships? Which one of these do you struggle with, if any?

Answer – 1. He was powerful, in charge of others, 2. He was productive, too busy for meaningful relationships, 3. He was proud, as self-made man unwilling to ask for help, and 4. He was pretentious, always trying to look good for those below and above him.

**3.** Read Matthew 8:6-13 together. In what way did the centurion say that Jesus was like himself? What was the centurion acknowledging about Jesus by saying this? What was Jesus’ response to the centurion? What should we learn from this centurion?

Answer – The centurion said that like himself, Jesus had authority and could just command others to do what he wanted and it would be done. He was acknowledging that Jesus has power over sickness and disease and was acknowledging that he was God.

**4.** Pastor Rick explained that God does not just want us to go to church, read the Bible, and give a few dollars; what does he really want from us? Read Romans 12:1,2 together. What do these verses tell us that God wants? What do you think this means?

Answer – Pastor Rick said that God wants everything from us, our entire lives, the good, the bad, and the ugly. Romans 12:1 says that we should be a “living sacrifice” which means we should offer to God our entire lives to do whatever he would like. We should not live our lives for the things of this world, but for the things of the next world.

**5.** Recommendation: Sometime in the next two or three weeks, take some time in your group to watch Mel Gibson’s “The Passion of the Christ.” If you do not have time to watch the entire film, start watching at the point where the Roman soldiers began to whip Christ through the crucifixion scene. Many people do not really understand what Christ endured physically to provide their salvation, this film does an accurate job of demonstrating this. Warning: The scene of Jesus being beat is very brutal and very graphic, you might want to warn the people in your group of this.