



BYSTANDER

JOHN & THE RABBI FROM NAZARETH

Week 2: Living As If

In order to demonstrate who he was, Jesus performed a number of miracles—which the apostle John referred to as “signs.” The first of those signs was at a joyous occasion where Jesus turned water into wine. The second sign was in the midst of a heartbreaking circumstance in which a father desperately asks Jesus to heal his dying son.

Discussion Questions

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**, where the apostle John recounts the story of Jesus healing a government official’s son.
 - 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. The testimony of others is what prompted the leader to seek Jesus for help. How might our testimonies cause people to seek Jesus?

Changing Your Mind

Jesus recognized there would be people who would believe in him who were not eyewitnesses to his miracles, and he looked into the future and calls us blessed—in other words, happy, joyful, and peaceful.

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