

## International Conversation Cafe

Bible Topic: How Can I Have a Relationship with God?

How would you describe a good relationship with a friend or relative?

Often good relationships begin with “liking” a person. We like the way they look or we like similar things such as sports, music, movies, and art. We might have had similar experiences or been to the same places. Sometimes we like their sense of humor and enjoy being with them. We might respect how they treat other people. Maybe they are kind, helpful, or just fun to be with. In the end, we trust the other person enough to be honest with them.

Just as trust is the foundation of any good relationship, trust is the foundation of our relationship with God.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith (trust) it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

*Put this verse in your own words. What do you think it means?*

The following story is from the gospel of Luke, chapter 7. It is a story of faith.

The servant of a Roman commander was sick and about to die. His master thought highly of him. The commander heard about Jesus. So he sent some elders of the Jews to him. He told them to ask Jesus to come and heal his servant.

They came to Jesus and begged him, “This man deserves to have you do this. He loves our nation and has built our synagogue (place of worship for Jews.)” So Jesus went with them.

*Name the main characters in the story. Who was sick? Who requested help?*

When Jesus came near the house, the Roman commander sent friends to him. He told them to say, “Lord, don’t trouble yourself. I am not good enough to have you come into my house. That is why I did not even think I was fit to come to you. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. I myself am a man who is under authority. And I have soldiers who obey my orders. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes. I tell that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him. He turned to the crowd that was following him. He said, “I tell you, even in Israel I have not found anyone whose faith is so strong.”

Then the men who had been sent to Jesus returned to the house. They found that the servant was healed.

*Why did the centurion have confidence in Jesus?*

*Tell about someone you trust completely.*

In the gospels we see the kindness of God through the life of Jesus Christ. Peter assured others they could trust in Jesus.

“You know the message God sent to the people of Israel. It is the good news of peace through Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all. You know what has happened all through Judea. It started in Galilee after John preached about baptism. 38 You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus went around doing good. He healed all who were under the devil’s power. God was with him.

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by nailing him to a cross. But on the third day God raised him from the dead. God allowed Jesus to be seen. But he wasn’t seen by all the people. He was seen only by us. We are witnesses whom God had already chosen. We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

“He commanded us to preach to the people. He told us to give witness that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets give witness about him. They say that all who believe in him have their sins forgiven through his name.” ~Acts 10:36-42

#### Discussion Questions

1. *Explain the story Peter told others.*
2. *How did Jesus show God’s kindness, verse 38?*
3. *What does God give us when we believe in Jesus?*
4. *How do you think the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus could inspire confidence in him and start us on a relationship with God?*