**BCM Bible Study September 23-24, 2015**

**Luke 7 and 8**

**Read Luke 7:1-10**

Faith is a word that we hear a lot. How would you define it in your own words?

What is interesting about how the centurion approaches Jesus?

What evidences of true faith do you find in the centurion, from the start of the passage on through?

What are some ways we can show true, practical faith in Jesus’ care and authority? What can we trust him for this week, and how can we demonstrate our trust?

**Read Luke 7:36-50**

What might we learn here about approaching Jesus?

What seems to be Jesus’ main concern or main focus and what does this tell you about himself?

What is significant about Jesus’ words in verse 48? Since only God can forgive sins, and Jesus forgave sins, what is he saying about himself? How do the guests respond (verse 49)?

Go over again the woman’s steps to commitment and faith *(deep repentance, love for Jesus, unabashed and almost wasteful commitment to him, faith put in him, sins forgiven).* Have you ever made a deep commitment of faith in Jesus like this woman? What would prevent you from doing that?

Many students have difficulty believing that Jesus really loves them. If you are in that situation, what barriers do you feel are hindering you from accepting Jesus’ love? Perhaps pride like Simon’s? Or perhaps fear, or broken trust? What would help you to begin breaking through these barriers and accepting the love Jesus has for you? *(Offer the group some extra
time to think through these issues. Allow those who wish to share their thoughts to do so.)*

The response that Jesus wants from those he forgives is love (verse 47). What would it mean for you to love Jesus the way this woman did? Does this love characterize your life? How can you demonstrate love this week?

**Read Luke 8:26-39**

How does Jesus treat the man differently than the way others have? What is the result?

When you first met Jesus, how did he treat you? How was this different than the way others treat you?

What are the people afraid of? How have you ever wanted Jesus to leave you alone, or not listen to his big claims, because it meant a big change in life?

**Read Luke 8:40-56**

Why do you think Jesus makes the sick woman reveal herself?

When have you been as desperate as Jairus or the bleeding woman? What has Jesus’ touch meant to your life?

Have you ever been too scared to come to God with a problem? How does this make a difference as you face desperate situations?