

## **"Life-Giving Faith" John 4:43-54**

1. How do people in the wider Canadian culture define faith?
2. (Read John 20:30) What is John's primary purpose in writing? What does it mean to have life in his name?

### **Read John 2: 1-12 and John 4: 43-54**

3. What are the common elements between these two stories?
4. Both of these stories tell us something important about life-giving faith. Before you explore the second sign that he performed in Cana and what that tells us about faith, what does the first sign tell you about the nature of life-giving faith?
5. Faith is rooted in what you can see. The official hears about Jesus from his neighbours. Christian faith begins with what we can see, what we can verify – how does this run counter to how many view faith?
6. Faith is expressed in an act of the will. The official based on what he has heard of Jesus goes the 38km south to plead with Jesus on behalf of his son. Can we say we believe something if we are not willing to commit to it by an act of the will?

7. (48) Jesus responds to the desperation of this father with an edge. Whenever Jesus responds with an edge he is calling out of the person something more, something better, something whose impact goes far beyond the individual to the disciples, the crowd, the community as a whole. What is the something more that is being called out of the father? (hint: comparing the two stories will help here, as Jesus seems to be critiquing the pattern of faith in John 2) What impact does his faith have on others?
  
8. Faith is not dependant upon our subjective experience of it (amount, sincerity, freedom from doubt), it is rather dependant upon the object of our faith. Where do you see this in the story?
  
9. Life giving faith deepens when we believe before we see. Give some examples of faith either in the scriptures, or in your life personally where this is in the case.
  
10. Is there anything else this passage teaches us about life-giving faith?
  
11. Is there an area of your life where God is calling you to believe before you see? If so, share it, and pray for one another toward that end.