

# MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE OVERCOMER

**Week 6:** September 23-29

**Introduce Guests/Share Life:** *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

**Open in Prayer:** *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

**Recall the Guidelines:** *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

**Share the Vision:** *At group, not only will we engage one another in relational discipleship every week, but we will also practice a method for studying the Bible that you can reproduce and use to disciple others!*

**Ask someone to retell last week's story (Mark 7:31-37).**

**Hook Question:** Can you share about a time when you remember being shocked by something someone else said?

**Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:**

If you miss this background, the story will be difficult to understand. The author of this story assumes his audience is familiar with a few cultural things that were common during Jesus' day that are not common now. We recommend you talk over this background once you finish reviewing it to make sure everyone is clear before you tell the story.

Rome was the world power during Jesus' time on the earth. The Roman Empire really grew a lot in the years leading up to Jesus' birth. As Rome conquered other nations, they would allow the nation to continue with some of their traditions and culture, but they sent in Roman (not Jewish) leaders and soldiers to enforce Roman law and to collect taxes from the people. The Roman soldiers were known as centurions.

The Jews hated the Romans. The Jews knew they were God's chosen people. They were waiting on God to deliver them from their oppressors (the Romans). They believed that, just because they were Jews, they would have a place in heaven with God and with their fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) forever.

While Jesus ministered on earth, He made it clear that His ministry was to the Jews (Matt. 15:24). However, Jesus also made it clear that His ministry would broaden to the ends of the earth after He went to heaven and sent His Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). During His ministry on earth, Jesus focused on the Jews; however, sometimes He ministered to people who were not Jews. This was a shadow, a glimpse, into the future. It showed how Jesus was coming not only for the Jews, but for the entire world. The Jews thought they would be the ones to inherit the Kingdom of God. Jesus was showing that people could only know God by faith in Him. Those who do not know Jesus will be cast out into darkness. We must come to Him by faith.

What Jesus says to a centurion in today's story would have been shocking. If you don't get the background, you will miss the shock! Discuss this background briefly to make sure you've got it, then begin the story...

**Tell the story from Matthew 8:5-13:** *Use different storytellers. Teach people to share God's Word!*

**Rebuild the story:** *Group members retell the story based on what they remember.*

**Read Matthew 8:5-13:** *Ask the group to read these verses.*

**Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word...**

Head  
Questions:  
Quicker  
tempo.

- Based on the background, what did Jesus mean by what He said in verses 10-12?
- How do you think the disciples might have felt when Jesus responded to the centurion this way?
- What can you learn about Jesus in this story?

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Heart &  
Hand  
Questions:  
Slow down &  
wait!

- How was Jesus preparing His disciples to disciple others in this story?
- How do you relate to this story?
- What is Jesus trying to teach you right now?
  - How do you need to apply what He is teaching you to your life?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

***Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible story next week.***

*Close in prayer.*

# **MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE** **OVERCOMER**

**Week 6:**

**Have you registered for 401 yet?**

**Have you reached out to people in your group or to others you know that would be interested in growing as a disciple of Jesus and learning to make disciples of Jesus to invite them to 401?**

**Use the time you would normally spend reading this coaching guide to register yourself and to reach out and try to connect others to our upcoming discipleship training!**

**[www.westernhillchurch.com/lead401](http://www.westernhillchurch.com/lead401)**