



Group Leader Guide - Week 4

Sermon Recap

Evan discusses the concept of cognitive dissonance, explaining how individuals can hold contradictory beliefs or fail to act in accordance with their convictions. He highlights the universal human desire to both fit in and stand out, emphasizing that this tension is found even within the church community. Using the example of a Roman Centurion from the Bible, Evan illustrates that true faith is demonstrated through humility, respect, and aligned actions that reflect one's beliefs. He concludes with a call for the congregation to examine their own beliefs and actions, encouraging them to take tangible steps that align with their faith in God.

Ice Breaker

What is your favorite example of the 'mandela effect'?

(The Mandela Effect: an observed phenomenon in which a large segment of the population misremembers a significant event or shares a memory of an event that did not actually occur. For example, the logo of Fruit of the Loom featuring a cornucopia even though it does not).

Discussion Questions

▼ What is cognitive dissonance, and how can it affect our beliefs and actions?

- *Sermon Context:* Evan talks about cognitive dissonance as the conflict between our beliefs and actions, using examples like wanting to lose weight but still eating ice cream.
- *Application:* Can you think of a time when your actions didn't align with your beliefs? How did that make you feel?

▼ Why is it important for our actions to align with our beliefs, as mentioned in the sermon?

- *Sermon Context:* Evan explains that aligning our actions with our beliefs is what sets us apart as a community and helps God work through us.
- *Application:* What are some specific ways you can ensure that your actions match what you truly believe?

Read Scripture

Luke 7:1-10 NIV

¹ When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. ² There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. ³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." ⁶ So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

Discussion Questions

▼ In Luke 7:1-10, how does the Centurion demonstrate his faith in Jesus?

- *Sermon Context:* The Centurion shows incredible faith by believing that Jesus only needs to say the word for his servant to be healed, illustrating the depth of his belief in Jesus' authority.

- *Application:* How can you show faith in your own life, similar to the Centurion, especially when facing difficult situations?
- ▼ What does it mean to be part of a 'rough crowd' as discussed by Evan, and how can that relate to our church community?
- *Sermon Context:* Evan emphasizes that everyone in the church is flawed and imperfect, which is why they belong to a 'rough crowd' together.
 - *Application:* How can accepting our flaws help create a more welcoming environment in our community and for those who may not feel they fit in elsewhere?
- ▼ What practical steps can you take to eliminate cognitive dissonance in your life as suggested by Evan?
- *Sermon Context:* Evan encourages people to talk to others about their beliefs and to take action based on their convictions to overcome cognitive dissonance.
 - *Application:* What is one specific belief you hold that you could act on more consistently starting today?

Application Challenge

- ▼ Evan posed two questions to close out this series. How can we apply them to our lives and live out the message?
- Do you have inconsistent beliefs?
 - God and His Word are consistent. What areas of your life are inconsistent with God's Word?
 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. - *1 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV*
 - Do your actions align with your convictions?
 - You can believe anything you want, but it doesn't do any good if you don't act on it.
 - How will you crush your cognitive dissonance, act on your convictions, and allow God to do great things in you and through you?

Remember: **We are the rough crowd.**

Prayer

- Ask for prayer requests within the group.
- Pray for the strength to align our actions with our beliefs.
- Seek God's guidance in addressing any cognitive dissonance in our lives.
- Ask for wisdom to live out our faith authentically this week.

Rewatch the sermon

Visit victorycc.life/watch for on-demand access to all of our sermons.