

# Authority

O God, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Look

Everyone reacts differently to authority. Some people are afraid of people in authority and follow the rules set by the authority figure without questions. Others have no respect for authority and will look for every opportunity to challenge it and break the rules. Still others find a balance, respectful of authority, but questioning when appropriate.

1. What is your relationship with authority and authority figures?
2. Why do you think you react the way you do?

## Book Luke 7:1-10

In this passage, we hear a story about two authority figures: a Roman Centurion and Jesus. The Centurion is a powerful man, by his own account he just has to speak and others do his bidding. He could have commanded that Jesus be brought to him, but instead he sent a delegation to invite Jesus to help him.

1. What did the Centurion want Jesus to do? Who did he ask to invite Jesus?
2. Why didn't the Centurion approach Jesus directly?
3. Why do you think this is significant? What does it say about his relationship with Jesus?
4. What is Jesus' reaction to the Centurion's humility? Why do you think Jesus felt that way?

## Took

Jesus is the ultimate authority. As the Centurion knows, all he has to do is speak and it will be done.

1. How do you react to Jesus' authority? Is it the same or different from the way you react to others in authority? Why?
2. How do you usually approach Jesus – are you bold, humble, afraid, confident?
3. What do we learn from this story about how Jesus might want us to approach him?