[Narrator] In today's story from the book of Matthew, we learn a lot about faith. We will learn about faith from a very surprising person, a Roman officer who nobody would ever expect to believe in Jesus. Let's see how having a little faith can do amazing things.

In our story are two disciples, let's call them Peter and James, a roman officer we'll call Claudius, Claudius' butler named Apollos and a cook named Alexander. Of course there are also Jesus and some of his followers.

[Scene] Claudius and Apollos are talking while Alexander is lying on the floor.

[Narrator] Our story starts in the home of Claudius the Roman officer. He's getting ready to go out but before he goes he is leaving instructions with his butler Apollos.

[Claudius] Apollos, how is Alexander doing, I know he's not been feeling well and the assistant cook is, well, not nearly as good.

[Apollos] Good morning Mr. Claudius. I'm sorry to say that if anything Alexander is even worse. We've had doctors look at him and sent out to several priests to pray but I'm not sure that he can hold on much longer.

[Claudius] That's terrible. He's such a good cook. He even made those Jews we had over for dinner the other day feel comfortable about eating and that's saying something. You know what, those Jews told me about this incredible healer named Jesus. He's supposed to be coming back to Capernaum and I think he could help. I'll see if I can find him.

[Narrator] So off Claudius went. As he walked through Capernaum he saw a group of people coming into town.

[Scene]Group led by James and Peter come on, Jesus and other followers are a little behind. Claudius comes on and looks around tentatively.

[Peter] James, is that the mucky-muck Roman centurion who is based here in Capernaum.

[James] You're right, it sure looks like him but where are his guards. He can't push people around alone, but maybe he doesn't know that.

[Peter] You know I've heard that he's actually a pretty decent guy. At least for a Roman. Even so they can be so arrogant. Do you think that God will ever make them leave us alone?

[James] I hope so. I keep hoping that Jesus will have God deal with them and send them all away. [Peter] Maybe this Centurion doesn't want to bully us, Maybe he's going to try another tactic. Maybe he's going to follow us around and try to catch us doing something wrong.

[James]Quiet, he's coming over here.

[Scene] Claudius walks up to Peter and James.

[Claudius] Excuse me, some of my Jewish friends told me that the healer Jesus and his disciples have just come back to Capernaum. Have you seen them, I'd really like to talk with the healer

[Peter] Jesus is over there.

[Scene] James, Peter, and Claudius walk over to Jesus.

[Claudius] Mr. Jesus, my name is Claudius and I want to ask you for some help.

[Jesus] What can I do for you.

[Claudius] I have a slave who is extremely sick. We have tried everything and it doesn't make him better. Some of my Jewish friends said that you were a healer, that you might be able to have God help my slave.

[Jesus] Sure, let's go.

[Claudius] Oh no Mr. Jesus, I'm not worthy to have someone like you come to my home. Besides, I'm a soldier and I know what it means to give and to take orders. If I tell one of my soldiers to go somewhere I know that he will go. If I tell him to come he will come. If I tell a slave to do something I trust that it will get done. People have to have faith in me and I have to have faith in them. I know that all you have to do is say that my slave will get better and it will happen, I believe that.

[Scene] Jesus looks amazed.

[Jesus] I haven't come across anyone in Israel who has had this kind of faith. Go home, your slave is well. (at that moment Alexander gets up and starts cooking)

[Scene] Claudius goes one way, Jesus and Disciples go the other. Apollos runs up to Claudius.

[Apollos] Mr. Claudius, look Alexander suddenly just got better. Isn't that amazing?

[Claudius] Well, yes, but that's what Jesus said would happen.

[Narrator] Yes, that's exactly what happened. Jesus and his followers went on their way and when Claudius came home he found that his slave was totally recovered. The faith of the Roman officer we've called Claudius was remembered and talked about by people who follow Jesus from that day until now. When we have a little faith like the soldier did God will do amazing things through us.