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**BiG iDEa:** God's word is reliable to me as an individual.

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Life has a way of causing doubts about what we think and believe about God, His personal voice and His intentions toward us. Take some time throughout this week to read and reflect on what God's word says on the subject from the Bible passages below. Some questions are provided for you or a small group of friends to provide focus for your reflection. Before your start: Breathe, pray, ask the Holy Spirit for help.

### Identify

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." On Sunday, Doug said that words carry weight and can, in fact, hurt and permanently cripple a soul or give it life. How do you respond this statement?

### Read

*Scriptures to grow by...* Proverbs 15:4, 18:23, 25:15, Ecclesiastes 8:4, Matthew 8:5-13, 28:18-20, 6:33, Luke 7:1-10, 9:1, John 1:1-14, 6:63, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, James 3:5, Revelation 1:8, 19:11-16.

### Reflect

1. What words, phrases or ideas stand out to you from the Bible readings you read today? What do you think God may be leading you to consider about centurion-like faith?
2. How do these words, phrases or ideas connect with your everyday life? What do they lead you to think or to do?
3. Re-read the story of the centurion (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:1-10). Our thoughts and ideas about how life actually works and our stated Christian beliefs are often in conflict. Think about a time when something you read in the Bible seemed to conflict with something you believed about the world. Were you able to resolve the tension? If so, how? If not, would you like to settle it?

### Respond

*Moving forward...* Do you believe it is possible to have the same kind of *centurion-faith experience* that trusts and responds to words, thoughts and intentions from the Spirit of God? Do you want it enough to seek it?