## **Surprising or Expected?**

This account gives us a portrait of a Roman soldier who would have stood out in ancient Israel. Look at this list of events from today's text and explain why you would either find each one to be surprising (S) or expected (E).

1. A Roman soldier thought that his servant had great value.
2. A centurion would send Jewish leaders to Jesus rather than going himself.
3. Jewish leaders were advocates of a leader in the Roman army that occupied their
country.
4. A Roman military man could be described as someone who loved Israel.
5. A soldier from a pagan nation financed the building of a Jewish house of worship.
6. An army officer did not see himself as worthy to talk to Jesus in person.
7. A centurion believed that Jesus could heal without being present.
8. Jesus described a soldier's faith as being greater than the faith of the people of Israel.