



Saving the Official's Son

Lesson Aim: To understand the difference between trusting Jesus to perform miracles and trusting Jesus as your Savior.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: Jesus as Savior

THE WORD

Bible Story: John 4:46-54

What He has done: Jesus healed the official's son with His words alone.

Key Verse: John 4:53

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Psalm 16:9-11

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Unit 4: Jesus as Savior			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
17	Saving the Official's Son, John 4:46-54	Jesus healed the official's son with His words alone.	To understand the difference between trusting Jesus to perform miracles and trusting Jesus as your Savior.
18	Walking on Water, Matthew 14:22-34	Jesus walked on water and saved Peter from drowning.	To see how this story connects with our habits of fear and the salvation of our souls.
19	Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind, John 9:1-7, 13-25, 35-39	Jesus saved the man from blindness and spiritual darkness.	To understand Jesus saves us from spiritual darkness.
20	Appearing to Thomas, John 20:24-31	Jesus appeared and proved to Thomas that He was the risen Lord.	To understand Jesus saves us from our doubts.
21	Appearing to the Disciples, Luke 24:36-49	Jesus opened the disciples' minds.	To see Jesus gives us the understanding to know He is the promised Savior and the power to spread the word.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 25. Please join us in praying, "Lord Jesus, fill us with Your Holy Spirit as we share this story, so the children might trust all Your words are true. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Partner Trust	1 blindfold for every 2 children, 3 to 5 obstacles (empty boxes, chairs, plastic cones, or even helpers standing in place)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Am the Way" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "For by Him" "Neither Death nor Life" "You Will Seek Me" (With All Your Heart) Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing on the Promises of God" "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: John 14:6	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 17 Bonzai Brothers script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: John 4:46-54	Map—Capernaum and Cana, Ancient Israel, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Psalm 16:9-11	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Bookmark, W's, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am The Way," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Grapes from Cana	Grapes or grape-flavored snack
	Up to 10	Game: Trust Me	Cooked noodles (or oatmeal), plastic bag, paper bag, hand wipes or wet hand towel
	Up to 10	Craft: Promise Magnet	Half sheets of colorful sturdy paper or craft foam, 3-inch x 5-inch note cards, self-adhesive magnets, glue, craft decorations (markers, shells, craft jewels, stickers, glitter glue, etc.)
	Up to 10	The Apostles' Creed Study	Poster or individual copies of The Apostles' Creed
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles, sturdy paper, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," CD player, floor tape, 2 containers
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: Who is your most trusted friend?

GAME: PARTNER TRUST

Purpose: Children will play a trust game to introduce the story of Jesus' healing of the official's son.

Supplies: 1 blindfold for every 2 children, 3 to 5 obstacles (empty boxes, chairs, plastic cones, or even helpers standing in place)

Prepare: To set up an obstacle course, create and mark a path from one end of the play area to the other around and through several different types of obstacles.

Today, we will discover how we can trust Jesus because He always keeps His promises. But first, let's play a game in which we have to trust each other.

Directions:

1. Assign children into teams consisting of two partners.
2. Teams line up at the starting line.
3. Give one blindfold to each team. One partner on each team puts on the blindfold.
4. Tell the first team in line when to start. The partner without the blindfold carefully leads the blindfolded partner through the course to the opposite side. Suggest they move slowly and offer ideas to help them navigate safely.
5. Let each team know when they can start the course. More than one team can run the course at the same time.
6. After each team reaches the end of the course, have them switch roles and go through the course again.

How did you feel as you trusted your partner to lead you safely through the course? (Children respond.) **Did anyone trip or bump into something?** (Children respond.) **It can be hard to trust someone to keep you safe. In a few minutes, we will learn more about how we can always trust Jesus to keep His promises.**



Jesus as Savior

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Today, we worship Jesus as our Savior. In today's story, we go back to His second miracle to see how Jesus used a miracle to help the official and everyone in his house believe in Jesus as their Savior. Jesus is the only one with a way for us to be forgiven and close with God forever. That is what Jesus Himself said in our Bible Memory Verse.



Read John 14:6.



You may choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus as the only way to God.

As we give our offering today, let's ask God to use this money to help others believe in Jesus as their Savior. Sing Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Am the Way" as the offering is collected.



Perform Bonzai Brothers script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 4, Lesson 17.



Jesus healed the official's son

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned that after God raised Jesus from the dead, Jesus appeared to many witnesses. Then, His disciples watched as He was lifted into heaven. He had finished His mission on earth to make a way for us to be close to God the Father forever.

Today, we will look back at a story from Jesus' life on earth that shows us how He did a miracle to make a way for the royal official to believe in Him. The official's son was very sick, so he went to Cana to ask Jesus for a miracle. If a map of Ancient Israel is available, point to Capernaum where the official lived and Cana where the official found Jesus.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: John 4:46-54. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: John 4:53.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Listen carefully as we read exactly what happened that day to the official, his son, and everyone in his house. Read John 4:46-54.



Believing in the Savior

THE WAY

What is the difference between trusting Jesus will do miracles and trusting Jesus to be the Savior who forgives your sins and gives you eternal life? (Children respond.)

At first, the royal official just trusted Jesus could do miracles. He traveled to Cana to ask Him if He would come heal his son. How did the man expect Jesus to heal his son? (He expected Jesus to come with him and heal the boy in person.) **Did Jesus go with Him?** (No.) **What did Jesus do instead?** (He said, "You may go. Your son will live.") **Jesus didn't answer the man the way he expected. Has Jesus ever answered one of your prayers in a way you did not expect?** (Children respond.)

What did the man do next? (Children respond.) **The man took Jesus at His word, which means he trusted Jesus would keep His promise. What good news did the servants bring to the man on his way home?** (His son was healed.) **What time was it when the son got better?** (The seventh hour.) **What was so important about that time?** (It was the exact time Jesus said, "Your son will live.") **What did the man and everyone in his house do then?** (Believed in Jesus.)

Because of this miracle healing, the man and everyone in his house believed in Jesus not only as a miracle worker, but also as their Savior and Lord. Just like the official, we often need to see Jesus' power and goodness in our lives before we trust Him as our Savior. When we know Jesus is good, we can trust Him as Savior and Lord over our whole life. When has Jesus done something good in your life that helped you trust in Him? (Children respond.)

Some people do not understand their need for a savior. To find out why we need a savior, let's read Galatians 3:22. Read Galatians 3:22. Why do we need a savior? (To rescue us from the prison of sin.) **To understand the promise given to those who believe in Jesus, let's read 1 John 2:25. Read 1 John 2:25.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Believing in Jesus as your Savior is the only way to be given eternal life. Without eternal life, we have only one life and then death. With the promise of eternal life, our souls will live forever close with God even after our bodies have died. One thousand years before God made the way to eternal life known to the official, God made the way known to King David. As we read the verses, listen carefully to the way David describes life close with God.



FIND IT FIRST Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 16:9-11. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Psalm 16:9-11.

David understood that the coming Savior would give us life even if our bodies die. Who is that Savior? (Jesus.) **How does the path of life David describes remind you of Jesus' description of Himself as the way, truth, and life (John 14:6) in our Bible Memory Verse?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, _____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a Bible Memory Verse Bookmark of John 14:6 and Romans 10:9. Let's read it together. Read the bookmark. Jesus promises that if we believe in Him, we will be saved. He keeps His promises for as He says, He is the truth. Put your bookmark in your Bible to remind you that you can trust Jesus!

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. **Distribute W³ Journal Entry #17.** Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jesus telling the official that his son would live. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Am the Way," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: GRAPES FROM CANA

Purpose: Children will eat a snack of grapes to remind them the first miracle was in Cana.

Snack Suggestion: Grapes or grape-flavored snack

In today's story, where did the official find Jesus? (Cana.) Jesus had performed His first miracle at a wedding in Cana. Who remembers what Jesus did at that wedding? (He changed water into wine.) Wine is made from grapes. Today's grape snack reminds us of the miracles Jesus performed in Cana to help us believe in Him. The official left Cana trusting Jesus to keep His promise that the his son would live. Jesus always keeps His promises.

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is a promise someone gave you and kept?"**

GAME: TRUST ME

Purpose: Children will observe the difference between blind trust and believing after seeing proof.

Supplies: Cooked noodles (or oatmeal), plastic bag, paper bag, hand wipes or wet hand towel

Prepare: Seal cooked noodles in a plastic bag. Place the bag inside a paper bag to hide the contents.

I want to show you a bag filled with a secret substance that feels very slimy and strange, but I PROMISE you that it is safe to touch. Which one of you will trust me by closing your eyes and reaching into this bag to guess what is inside?

Directions:

1. Choose a volunteer to feel the secret substance (cooked noodles).
2. Keep the contents hidden. Do not allow the child to pull the noodles out of the bag.
3. Allow each child who volunteers to have a turn feeling and guessing the contents inside the bag.
4. After everyone has guessed, show the contents to the class.

Why did you decide that it was safe to touch the secret substance in the bag? (Children respond.) Some of you decided to touch the secret substance because you trusted me when I promised it was safe to touch. Many of you decided to touch it after you watched our first volunteer touch it. Why were you more comfortable touching it after others had done so? (Children respond.) How would you describe the difference between trusting in someone's promise and believing because you have seen proof? (Children respond.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PROMISE MAGNET

Purpose: Children will make a magnet reminder of the promises in the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Half sheets of colorful sturdy paper or craft foam, 3-inch x 5-inch note cards, self-adhesive magnets, glue, craft decorations (markers, shells, craft jewels, stickers, glitter glue, etc.)

Prepare: Print the words of the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse onto a note card.

Option: Instead of attaching a magnet, attach yarn to the upper corners of the sturdy paper or craft foam to hang it. You may substitute a copy of the bookmark for the printed Bible Memory Verse note card, or have children print the Bible Memory Verse in their own handwriting.

Teacher's Tip: You may want to make a sample craft and test to make sure your magnets are strong enough to hold it up.

Today, we learned Jesus keeps His promises. We can always trust Him to do what He says He will do. Our Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse contains some very important promises. Let's make a magnet message for your home to remind everyone of these great promises.

Directions:

1. Use glue to attach the Bible Memory Verse to a half sheet of sturdy colored paper or foam.
2. Peel the paper from the back of the magnets and press the sticky side of each magnet onto the back of the plaque.
3. Use markers, glitter glue, and craft decorations to decorate the colorful paper or foam that frames the Bible Memory Verse.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

THE APOSTLES' CREED STUDY

Purpose: This 10 statement study assists in the understanding and memorization of the Apostles' Creed. It is divided into 2 parts: Part 1—The Father and The Son and Part 2—The Spirit and The Saints. While designed for ages 10 and above, discussions may be adapted to other age levels.

Supplies: Create a poster or provide individual copies of The Apostles' Creed for children. For related tips and activities, go to ResourceWell.org.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 7, Part 2: The Spirit and the Saints

"I believe in the Holy Spirit,"

As Christians, we believe in one God. This one God is a mystery because He is three in one. He is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Let's say this next statement together: "I believe in the Holy Spirit."

Volunteer read Genesis 1:1-2. **The Holy Spirit created the world with the Father and the Son. He visited different people in the Old Testament, giving them the power to say and do mighty things.**

Volunteer reads John 14:26-27. **Jesus promised His Spirit would lead us in truth. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible. He points us to Jesus and helps us believe. He guides us in making choices that please God. The Holy Spirit is also called the Counselor.**

Volunteer reads Acts 1:8. **The Holy Spirit gives us power to love, serve, and point others to Jesus.**

Volunteer reads 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. **The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus sent to live in the hearts of believers when Jesus returned to heaven.**

Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith? (Children respond.)
Why is it important to believe in the Holy Spirit? (He is God.) **Why do we, as believers, let the Holy Spirit lead us?** (So we can live a life that pleases God.) Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

GAME: THE WAVE

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Jesus was with God in the very beginning. Together they created everything in heaven and on the earth. As we say our Bible Memory Verse together, think about something amazing you have seen. Remember, God created everything and He created you, too!

Directions:

1. Assign one word or phrase from John 14:6 and Romans 10:9 to each child or group.
2. Direct each child/group to quickly stand and say the assigned word or phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to the thighs, and finally sitting down.
3. Repeat three times, going faster each time.

GAME: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster, sturdy paper, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," CD player, floor tape, 2 containers

Prepare: Label the two containers "Boat 1" and "Boat 2." From sturdy paper, cut 40 paper footprints. Create two sets of 20 paper footprints, each with one of the following 20 phrases: I am/the way/and the truth/and the life./No one/comes to/the Father/except/through Me./If you/confess/with your mouth/"Jesus is Lord"/and believe/in your heart/that God/raised Him/from the dead/you will/be saved.

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints. To increase degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

Our Bible Memory Verse is two different verses. John 14:6 quotes Jesus' exact words promising He is the only way to come to God the Father. Romans 10:9 explains the promise concerning what we must do to be saved. In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Then, each member will say step on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the cross.

Directions:

1. Divide children into 2 teams. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
2. Place 1 set of 20 footprints in each "boat." Place the boats at one end of the play area.
3. Use floor tape to mark the shape of a large cross at the other end of the play area.
4. Teams race to place footprints in the correct order in a path from their boat to the cross.
5. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the cross.
6. The first team to have all its members reach the cross is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part One studies the miracles of Jesus, which took place during His public ministry (Circa 30-33 A.D.). This list is not chronological, as the Bible does not give a definitive order of the miracles. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Appearing on the Shore (Circa 33 A.D.) After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to the disciples who were fishing in the Sea of Galilee. Who remembers what Jesus did when He appeared on the shore? (He performed a miracle when he filled the net with 153 fish, and He cooked breakfast for the disciples.)

Ascending into Heaven (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What did Jesus do for His disciples in Bethany just before He was taken up to heaven? (He blessed them.) Afterward, why did the disciples go to the temple? (To praise God.) Where is the Lord Jesus now? (In heaven.)

Saving the Official's Son (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What did Jesus say when the official asked Jesus to heal his son? ("You may go. Your son will live.") The man trusted Jesus to keep His promise that the boy would live. On the man's way home, what news did the servants bring? (His son was healed.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Miracles of Jesus:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

The Miracles of Jesus: (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Changing Water into Wine > Filling the Nets > Calming the Storm > Healing Jairus' Daughter > Feeding the Five Thousand > Healing the Centurion's Servant > Healing the Paralyzed Man > Healing the Sick Woman > Healing the Deaf and Mute Man > Healing the Ten Men > Banishing an Evil Spirit > Saving the Official's Son > Walking on Water > Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind > Raising Lazarus > Riding into Jerusalem > The Miracle of Easter > Appearing to the Disciples > Appearing to Thomas > Appearing on the Shore > Ascending into Heaven