



Saving the Official's Son

Lesson Aim: To know we can trust God to always keep His promises.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: Jesus as Savior

THE WORD

Bible Story: John 4:46-54

What He Has Done: Jesus saved the boy from a terrible fever.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Trust in God."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Joel 2:32

Unit 4: Jesus as Savior			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
17	Saving the Official's Son, John 4:46-54	Jesus saved the boy from a terrible fever.	To know we can trust God to always keep His promises.
18	Walking on Water, Matthew 14:22-34	Jesus walked on water and saved Peter from drowning.	To know we do not need to fear, because Jesus is with us and He will save us.
19	Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind, John 9:1-3, 5-11	Jesus healed the man's blindness.	To see God purposefully made everyone with different needs, to show His greatness.
20	Appearing to Thomas, John 20:24-31	Jesus showed Thomas proof He was the Lord.	To see Jesus did miracles so we might believe in Him.
21	Appearing to the Disciples, Luke 24:36-48	Jesus explained why He died and rose again.	To see Jesus did miracles so we might believe in Him and tell others.

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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cross
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Trust in God."
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: "Everyone Who Calls" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Heal Me, O Lord" "I Will Remember" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" Additional Song Suggestion: "Hallelu, Hallelu! (Praise Ye the Lord)"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 4, Lesson 17
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: John 4:46-54	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 4:53 Visual: Plain cross (similar to the lower case letter "t")
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Time to Trust God	Paper plate, sturdy colored paper, brad or paper fastener, yarn, glue or tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Warmer and Colder	Plastic thermometer
		Game: Cana & Capernaum	None
		Snack: Feverish Favorite	Any favorite snack enjoyed during an illness
	Circle of Prayer	None	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 4, Lesson 17 Color This Story: "Jesus Saves the Official's Son"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: John 4:46-54	None
	Up to 10	Game: Stop the Music	One paper heart, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Everyone Who Calls"
	Up to 10	Game: Everyone Who Calls	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God keeping His promises

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Trust in God

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure. Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a plain cross (similar to the lower case letter "t"). **This stamp (or sticker) shows us a cross in the shape of the letter "t."** The letter "t" is the first letter in the word "trust." To trust in God means to know you can always depend on Him to keep His promises. Let this sticker help you remember you can always trust God! Today's Whisper Verse is "Trust in God." Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Trust in God."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"Trust (in)" Open hands close tightly to show that a person has a good hold on something.

"God." One hand is raised to the heavens and then downward in a sign of respect.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Trust in God," John 14:1. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



What would you say to Jesus if you saw Him do a miracle? (Children respond.) **God loves when we thank Him and praise Him for His miracles. He loves when we remember His miracles and tell them to others. That way everyone can praise Him. Everything that breathes can praise the Lord.** Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."

It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to Jesus as our Savior. A savior is someone who saves or rescues us from danger. In today's story, Jesus promised to save a sick boy and He kept that promise! We can always trust God to keep His promises. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse, "Trust in God." Let's try it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: "Trust in God." Include sign language. Sing: "The Lord Is Faithful."

To trust in God means to know He keeps His promises. Now, let's trust God to use our offering money to help many people trust in Him. Sing: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" while collecting the offering.



Let's see if Delbert and Lello know about the man whose son was sick. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 4, Lesson 17.



Just as the man trusted in Jesus to keep His promise, we can trust in God to heal us and to save us. Sing: "Heal Me, O Lord."

Our new Bible Memory Verse is God's promise that everyone who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved. Remember that Lord is one of His special names. Let's say it together. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

The man in today's story called on Jesus to save his son who was sick at home. Jesus promised the son would be healed, and Jesus kept that promise! Let's celebrate by learning our new Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing: "Everyone Who Calls."



Jesus healed the man's son

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned Jesus was taken up into heaven where He now watches over us. Today, we will hear how Jesus healed an official's son, just as He promised He would. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 4:53.

WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 4:46-54

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a plain cross (similar to the lower case letter "t"). Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- A royal official came to Jesus one day,
- His son was sick with a fever they say.
- The man begged, "Sir, please come!
- Come and heal my very sick son."

- Jesus said, "Your son will live. Now go."
- He said that at seven o'clock. And so,
- The man trusted Jesus and home he walked.
- On his way, his servants gave him a shock.

- "Your son is healed," he heard them say,
- "At seven o'clock, the fever went away."
- That was the same time Jesus had said it.
- So they all believed and gave God all the credit!



Jesus kept His promise that the son would live. What did the man and everyone in his house do after seeing this miracle? (They believed.) Let's find our answer in the Bible.

Read John 4:53 from the teacher's Bible.

In whom did they learn they could trust? (They could trust in God.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Trust in God." Include sign language or hand motions.



We can trust God to keep His promises

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: TIME TO TRUST GOD

Purpose: Create a paper clock showing the time 7 o'clock, when Jesus saved the man's son. This serves as a fun reminder to trust in God for his perfect timing.

Supplies: Paper plate, sturdy colored paper, brad or paper fastener, yarn, glue or tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: On the back of the plate, print: **"What time did Jesus save the man's son? John 4:46-54."** On the front rim of the plate, print the numbers **1-6** and **8-12** at the correct locations for a clock. Leave a space for the number 7 to be added by the child. From sturdy colored paper, cut a number 7 shape. From sturdy colored paper, cut the hands for the clock; a 1-inch by 4-inch rectangle and a 1-inch by 3-inch rectangle. Pierce the ends of the two rectangles and the center of the plate.

Directions:

1. Color the face and rim of the clock.
2. Glue or tape the number 7 onto the plate in its correct place, between the 6 and 8.
3. Use a brad or paper fastener to attach the hands to the clock.

Craft Discussion:

- **The man's son was healed in the exact moment Jesus said, "Your son will live."**
- **What time was the son healed?** (What we call 7:00 today.)
- **Your clock shows the time as 7:00. Put it on a table at home. Each time you see it, remember we can trust God to keep His promise that things will happen exactly when Jesus says they will.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: WARMER AND COLDER

Purpose: To learn to trust your partner and to remember the timing of the miracle.

Supplies: Plastic thermometer

The man trusted Jesus to heal his son. We can always trust in God. Now let's play a game to learn to trust each other. We will use a thermometer to remind us the man's son had a fever.

Directions:

1. Choose two children to be Trusting Partners.
2. All children (Except Partner A) hide their eyes.
3. Teacher guides Partner A in hiding the thermometer.
4. All children open eyes.
5. Partner A gives hints to Partner B by saying "warmer" as Partner B moves closer to the hiding place and "colder" as Partner B moves further away from it.
6. All children applaud when the thermometer is found.
7. (To all) **Did you see how the partners had to trust each other's words?** (Children respond.)
8. (To Partner B) **How did it feel to trust Partner A's words?** (Partner B responds.)
9. If time allows, repeat until each child has a turn as a partner.

GAME: CANA & CAPERNAUM

Purpose: This True-False game demonstrates the role of timing in the miracle.

Supplies: None

Teacher Tip: Cana is pronounced KAY-nah. Capernaum is pronounced cap-PER-nay-um.

The man's home was in Capernaum. He went to Cana to ask Jesus to heal his sick son. As the man left Jesus, his servant left Capernaum to bring him good news about his son. In this game, the man will begin in Cana and the servant in Capernaum. With every correct answer, one of them will take a step forward. Let's see how quickly they can meet to share the great news.

Directions:

1. Separate children into two equal lines on opposite sides of the room.
2. Line 1 represents the people of Cana. Line 2 represents the people of Capernaum.
3. Choose one child from Cana to be the man heading home to Capernaum.
4. Choose one child from Capernaum to be the servant bringing great news to the man.
5. Teacher asks the Cana group a True-or-False question. If the group answer is correct, the man takes a step toward the center. If incorrect, the servant takes a step toward the center.
6. Teacher asks the Capernaum group a True-or-False question. If the group answer is correct, the servant takes one step toward the center. If incorrect, the man takes one step toward the center.

True or False: Create simple true/false questions about this and other familiar miracles. See examples below.

The man was sick. (False.)

The servant had a cold. (False.)

The man's son had a fever. (True.)

Jesus didn't see the man. (False.)

God loves us. (True.)

Jesus said, "Go home. Your son will live." (True.)

The son was healed two weeks later. (False.)

We can trust Jesus' promises. (True.)

The servant told the great news to the son's father. (True.)

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: FEVERISH FAVORITE

Purpose: Children will eat a “comforting” snack while discussing the story of the man’s sick son.

Snack Suggestion: Any favorite snack enjoyed during an illness

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let’s sing the “Blessing Song.”** Sing to the tune of “Frere Jacques” or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **To trust in God means to know He will keep His promises. Who remembers today’s Whisper Verse?** (“Trust in God.”) **Let’s say it together.**
 - **The man knew he could trust the words of Jesus. We can trust them too. Where do we find the words of Jesus?** (In the Bible.) **Where do we find God’s promises?** (In the Bible.)
 - **The man’s son was very sick with a fever. Have you ever had a fever or flu? How did you feel? What do you like to eat when you have a fever?** (Children respond.)
 - **At the time we call seven o’clock, Jesus said, “Your son will live.” What time did the son feel better?** (The exact same time – seven o’clock.)
 - **What is your favorite part of this story?** (Children respond.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let’s fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let’s pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your “Time to Trust God” clock craft. Tell someone about the man’s son who was healed at the exact time Jesus promised He would be healed.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about ways your family can trust in God.**

COLOR THIS STORY: “Jesus Saves the Official’s Son.” Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, “Everyone Who Calls,” as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JOHN 4:46-54

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **A royal official came to Jesus one day,** (Salute.)
- **His son was sick with a fever they say.** (Feel forehead for fever.)
- **The officer begged, “Sir, please come!** (Clasp hands to beg.)
- **Come and heal my very sick son.”** (Beckoning motion.)

- **Jesus said, “Your son will live. Now go.”** (Point away.)
- **He said that at seven o’clock. And so,** (Look at wristwatch.)
- **The man trusted in God and home he walked.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **On his way, his servants gave him a shock.** (Look surprised.)

- **“Your son is healed,” he heard them say,** (Point thumbs up to indicate good news.)
- **“At seven o’clock, the fever went away.”** (Hold up 7 fingers.)
- **That was the same time Jesus had said it.** (Look at wristwatch.)
- **So they all believed and gave God the credit!** (Point to God in heaven.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Joel 2:32

GAME: STOP THE MUSIC

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: One paper heart, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song “Everyone Who Calls”

Let’s practice our Bible Memory Verse Song while we play a game. When the music is playing, pass the heart around the circle while we sing along. When the music stops, if you have the heart, see if you can sing the next line of the song. If you don’t remember it, we will help you.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, “Everyone Who Calls.”
3. Children pass the heart around the circle as they sing.
4. Stop the music suddenly.
5. Child with the paper heart says or sings the next line of the song alone or with the teacher.
6. Play again until each child has a turn singing alone (or with the teacher).

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: EVERYONE WHO CALLS

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Choose one child to stand in the center of the circle.
3. Remaining children chant the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse in rhythm:
Group: **Everyone who calls**
On the name of the Lord
Will - be
Saved!
Center child: **"Even me?"**
Group: **"Yes, you!"**
Center child: **"What about name of child?"** (Child in the center chooses a child in the circle.)
Group: **"Name of child chosen, too!"**
4. Child whose name was called stands in the center of the room.
5. Repeat step 3 until each child has a turn in the center.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God keeping His promises.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 4, Lesson 17: Saving the Official's Son

PONDER! Read John 4:46-54 with your family. What is your favorite part of this story? The man trusted Jesus' promise that his son would live. Every family has illnesses and hard times. Talk with your family about a hard time when your family trusted in God.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord Jesus, thank You for keeping Your promises. Thank You for helping our family during hard times. Help us trust You always. Amen."

PLAY! Think of a hard time when you trusted in God. Ask a family member to help you draw a picture of that time, printing "TRUST IN GOD" at the top of the page. Color the picture and put it in a place where you can see it every day. When you see it, remember to trust in God all everywhere you go and in everything you do.

Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse: Joel 2:32

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."