



Healing the Centurion's Servant

Lesson Aim: To see an example of great faith.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: Jesus as the God of Healing

THE WORD

What He Has Done: Jesus healed the centurion's servant with His words alone.

Scripture Focus: Matthew 8:5-13 **Key Verse:** Matthew 8:8

Christ Connection: Daniel 7:13-14

THE WAY

The Big Question: When have you seen someone show great faith in Jesus?

UNIT 2 FOCUS VERSE

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Unit 2: Jesus as the God of Healing			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	Healing the Centurion's Servant, Matthew 8:5-13	Jesus healed the centurion's servant with His words alone.	To see an example of great faith.
7	Healing the Paralyzed Man, Mark 2:1-12	Jesus forgave and healed the man who was paralyzed.	To bring our friends to Jesus for healing of their bodies and souls.
8	Healing the Sick Woman, Mark 5:24b-34	Jesus healed the woman who was sick.	To reach out to Jesus for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.
9	Healing the Deaf and Mute Man (Salvation Message), Mark 7:31-37	Jesus healed the man who was deaf and mute.	To see the personal nature of Jesus' healing and His offer of salvation.
10	Healing the Ten Men, Luke 17:12-19	Jesus healed the ten men who had leprosy.	To give Jesus the thanks and praise He expects and deserves.

LEADER'S ENCOURAGEMENT This week, read Psalm 103. Please join us in praying, "Lord, You have the authority and power to heal us. Thank You for Your love and compassion in caring for us. Amen."

Lesson Aims are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

Take Home Elements: The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

Leader's Tip: For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

Suggestion: Choose a game that focuses on ideas such as military officer, authority, words, faith, or humility.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: SERGEANT SAYS (SIMON SAYS)

Purpose: To introduce the concept of authority.

Supplies: Optional: Military uniform

Directions:

1. To begin the game, you or another leader are the Sergeant, everyone else are the players.
2. Standing in front of the group, Sergeant tells players what they must do. However, the players must only obey commands that begin with the words "Sergeant Says."
 - If Sergeant says, "Sergeant says touch your nose," then players must touch their nose.
 - If Sergeant simply says, "Touch your nose," without first saying "Sergeant says," players must not touch their nose. Those that do touch their nose are out of the game.
 - The Sergeant can increase the chances of people being eliminated by giving instructions quickly or doing the motion him/herself without saying "Sergeant says."
3. The last player standing wins and becomes the next Sergeant.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: A STEP OF FAITH

Purpose: To introduce the concept of faith.

Supplies: 8 ft. table, bag of 25 or 50 full-size (usually 12 inch) round party balloons (do not use long or oversized balloons)

Preparation: Place the table at the front of the room turned upside down so the legs are sticking up.

Directions:

1. Distribute the balloons amongst the students. Have them blow up the balloons and tie them off.
2. Have each student who has a balloon to stick their balloon under the surface of the table (you can help them lift the table). Make sure the balloons are evenly distributed under the table.
3. One at a time, have students take a "step of faith" and step on the back of the table. The balloons will not pop. Continue to have students step on the table until you can't fit any more students. One or two balloons may pop, but you should be able to get everyone on the table that had a balloon.
4. Afterward, talk about how students probably doubted that the balloons would hold them. They had to take a step of faith. Sometimes we doubt whether God is there for us. Our faith may not be very strong. But, sometimes we just have to trust Him and take a step of faith. God is always with us.



Jesus as the God of Healing

THE WORSHIP

Note to Leader: The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

Ideas for Optional Visuals: _____

The Seven Stars of Lent

If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at ResourceWell.org under Children - Other Resources. Choose one star for each week of the Lent season.

Today, we worship Jesus as the God of Healing. Jesus is in charge of everything, including the miracle of healing our diseases, forgiving our sins, and giving us what we need.

In Psalm 103, David praised the Lord by remembering the many good things He does for us. One of the good things Jesus does for those who believe in Him is to forgive all our sins.

Read the Unit 2 Focus Verse: Hebrews 11:1.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on God's miracles.



Read Psalm 103:2-5.



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence:
"Lord, we worship You for _____."



Jesus healed the centurion's servant

THE WORD Presentation

Note to Leader: Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: _____

Option 2: _____



TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.

Last time, we learned how Jesus fed more than five thousand people with just two small fish and five small loaves of bread. Today, we will hear about a miracle that took place in Capernaum, a town near the Sea of Galilee. In those days, the Roman government ruled over Israel. A centurion was a Roman officer who was given control over 100 soldiers. Romans were Gentiles (non-Jews), so they did not worship God. In the town of Capernaum, there was a good centurion who loved the Jewish people and had built a synagogue for them so they could worship. One day his servant became so ill that he was paralyzed.

The leader or a student reads Matthew 8:5-13.

- The centurion asked Jesus for healing for his servant. It is often in times of great need or hopelessness that people turn to God for help. Even though we cannot see Jesus in person, we can pray and ask Him to heal someone we know.
- The centurion was a man of power, yet he humbly approached Jesus, stating that he did not deserve to have Jesus in his home. He understood he was in the presence of one with far more authority than he had. This humble attitude was a key element of the centurion's great faith. He knew Jesus' miracles pointed not only to His gift of healing but also to His power and authority.
- Imagine having the kind of faith that believed Jesus' could heal someone with His words alone and that He would choose to do so for the servant of a Roman officer. Jesus said the centurion's faith was greater than the faith of the Jews.
- We trust God for salvation, but we have trouble trusting Him with challenges of our everyday lives, but that's exactly what He calls us to—to trust Him in all things.
- Jesus was pleased with the centurion's faith, but it was the power of Jesus, not the faith of the centurion that healed the servant. Our faith or good behavior won't change which miracles Jesus will perform. Healings are gifts of grace, which is undeserved favor.

THE WORD Presentation *continued*

- John 2:11 explains that the purpose of Jesus' miracles is to bring glory to God.
- Like Jesus' many other miracles, this miracle would have amazed everyone and pointed people to Jesus' power and authority.
- The Jews did not witness the actual healing that took place in the centurion's home. According to Jewish law, Jews were not allowed to go into the homes of Gentiles. But, what the Jews did see may have been more powerful than seeing a physical healing. They saw the interaction between Jesus and the Roman centurion, a Gentile.
- At that time, Jews believed the promised Savior came to save them, not the Gentiles. They believed Jesus would save only the faithful Jews who did right in God's eyes. They would have been surprised to hear Jesus speak about the great faith of the centurion because he was a Gentile and an officer in the Roman Empire, which oppressed the Jewish people.
- Jesus' words about who would attend the feast in the kingdom of heaven showed that Jesus came for those who believed in Him, both Jews and the Gentiles.
- To have faith like the centurion, we must truly believe Jesus is in control of everything. We must approach Him with humility and full confidence.
- To approach Jesus with humility means admitting that we need help and inviting Jesus into our lives and accept His help. We need to acknowledge Jesus has all authority and power and place ourselves at His mercy.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the whole story of God, what's the connection between this New Testament story and the Old Testament?

Jesus has been given all authority over heaven and earth (Matt 28:18). Hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth, God showed that to Daniel in a dream. Jesus often referred to Himself as the "Son of Man." "Son of man" would have been an ordinary phrase meaning "human being," but for those who had ears to hear, they would have understood Him to be the Messiah.

- The leader or a student reads aloud Daniel 7:13-14.



THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

When have you seen someone show great faith in Jesus?



THE WAY Discussion



GETTING STARTED Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



READ IT AGAIN

Read Matthew 8:5-13 silently or aloud.

In verse 7, what does Jesus' response to the centurion tell us about Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus pointed out the centurion's great faith to the Jews who were following Him?

Jesus gives a warning to the Jews. What is the warning?

What kinds of people are welcomed into the kingdom of heaven (verse 11)?

What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

When have you seen someone show great faith in Jesus?



TAKE ACTION Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

In order for the centurion to approach Jesus the way he did, he needed to be humble. Why is humility necessary when we approach Jesus?

What do you believe to be true about Jesus' power and authority?

Where do you need to trust Jesus in your life today?

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to have great faith SO THAT others might _____.**



PRAY Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #6 and Journal Entry #6. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #6.

GOD OF WONDERS

JOURNAL ENTRY #6

Healing the Centurion's Servant

Matthew 8:5-13

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

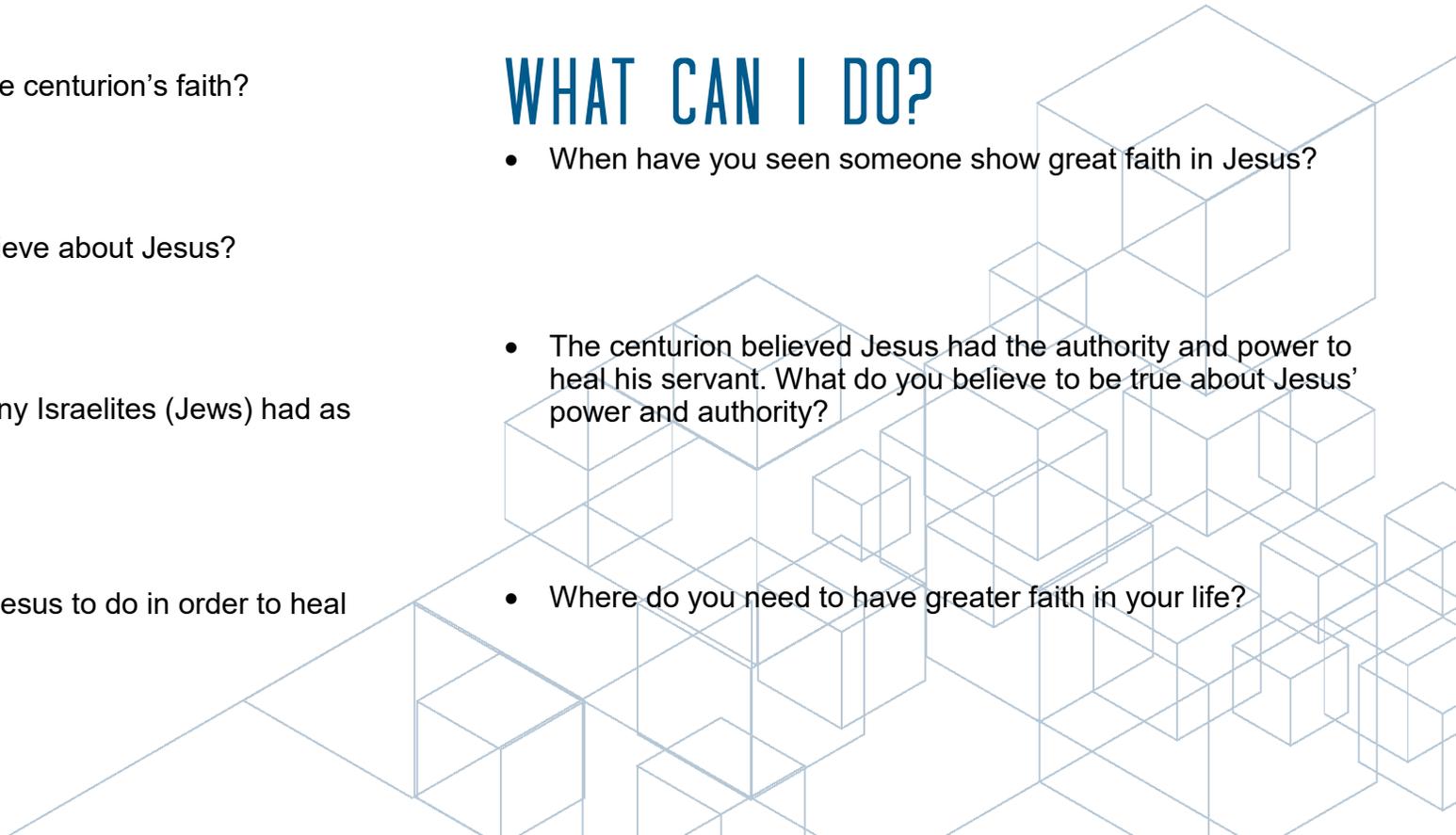
- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read Matthew 8:5-13.**
- What did Jesus say about the centurion's faith?
- What does the centurion believe about Jesus?
- According to Jesus, how many Israelites (Jews) had as much faith as the centurion?
- What did the centurion ask Jesus to do in order to heal his servant?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Why do you think Jesus was amazed by the centurion's great faith?
- Who did Jesus say would come to the feast in the kingdom of heaven?
- How does this story show that Jesus came for the Jews and the Gentiles?

WHAT CAN I DO?

- When have you seen someone show great faith in Jesus?
- The centurion believed Jesus had the authority and power to heal his servant. What do you believe to be true about Jesus' power and authority?
- Where do you need to have greater faith in your life?



Action Card #6/GOW

HEALING THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

MATTHEW 8:5-13

WITH HIS WORDS, JESUS HEALED
THE SERVANT.

WE ARE CALLED TO HAVE
GREAT FAITH IN JESUS.

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