



# Saving the Official's Son

**Lesson Aim: To understand how Jesus used miracles to help people believe in Him as the Savior.**

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** Jesus as Savior

## THE WORD

**What He Has Done:** Jesus healed the official's son with His words alone.

**Scripture Focus:** John 4:43-54; 20:30-31 **Key Verse:** John 4:53

**Christ Connection:** Psalm 16:9-11

## THE WAY

**The Big Question: Why did Jesus perform miracles?**

## UNIT 4 FOCUS VERSE

"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?  
 Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God." Psalm 42:11

<b>Unit 4: Jesus as Savior</b>			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
17	Saving the Official's Son, John 4:43-54; 20:30-31	Jesus healed the official's son with His words alone.	To understand how Jesus used miracles to help people believe in Him as the Savior.
18	Walking on Water, Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walked on water and saved Peter from drowning.	To see how Jesus responds when we cry out to Him.
19	Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind, John 9:1-39; 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16	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; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 10:13-14	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; Ephesians 3:16-21	Jesus opened the disciples' minds.	To see Jesus gives us understanding to know He is the promised Savior so we can spread the word.

**LEADER'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 students might trust all Your words are true. 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 a clock, timing, authority, or trust.

### **ACTIVITY OPTION 1: WHAT TIME IS IT?**

**Purpose:** To introduce the Bible story.

**Supplies:** Paper, pens or pencils

**Preparation:** Draw a clock with a hand (line) to each of the twelve hours. Make a copy for each student. The hands of the clock act as blanks for the students to write each other's names.

#### **Directions:**

1. Give a copy of the clock and a pen/pencil to every student.
2. On your signal, everyone 'makes an appointment' with someone who has an opening at the same time on their card. Students continue doing this until they have a name on all 12 hours of the clock.
3. When everyone's clock cards are full, student ask **"What time is it?"** You reply, **"It's 3 p.m. It's time to find the person you made an appointment with."** At that point, everyone finds that person and answers a fun question and a serious question that you give them. Suggestions are below:

#### **Fun Q's:**

What is your favorite meal?  
What is your most embarrassing moment?  
What is your favorite sports team?  
What is your favorite book?  
What is your most memorable moment?  
Would you rather live near the beach or the mountains and why?  
What is your favorite time of day?

#### **Serious Q's**

What is your biggest fear?  
What is your favorite Bible story?  
If you could meet one person in history, who would it be?  
Who is a hero to you?  
If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?  
What do you like most about yourself?  
If you could meet a famous celebrity, who would it be?

4. Play until you have called all 12 times or for as long as you have time.

### **ACTIVITY OPTION 2: OBJECT TOSS NAME GAME**

**Purpose:** To introduce the Bible story.

**Supplies:** Soft ball or a shoe, timer

#### **Directions:**

1. Students form a circle.
2. **Round 1:** Toss the ball to a student in the circle and say his or her name as you do it. That student throws to another student in the circle while saying his or her name. Continue until everyone in the circle has tossed the ball and it's back in your hands.
3. **Round 2:** Play again but tell students they must remember who they tossed the ball to this time.
4. **Round 3:** Play again but this time you'll time the students as they toss the ball to the same people as they did in Round 2. Time the round.
5. **Round 4:** Challenge the students to do the same thing in X amount of time (usually a few seconds short of what they completed it in round 3). Ask the group if they have any ideas for how to make it go faster. Play and see if they can beat their time.



Jesus as Savior

## 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Today, we worship Jesus as our Savior. In today's story, we go back to Jesus' life on earth to see how Jesus used a miracle to help a royal 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 the Unit 4 Focus Verse: Psalm 42:11.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on Jesus our Savior.



Read John 14:6.



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



## Jesus healed the official's son

# 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 that after God raised Jesus from the dead, Jesus appeared to many witnesses. Later, Jesus' disciples watched as He was lifted into heaven. He had finished His mission on earth—making a way for us to be close to God the Father forever.

In this unit, we are looking back on the life of Jesus, exploring 5 unique miracles that show us how Jesus can save people from death, danger, spiritual darkness, doubts, and unbelief. 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 went to Cana to ask Jesus to heal his son who was dying because of a fever.

The leader or a student reads John 4:43-54.

- Jesus' healing of the official's son was the second sign Jesus performed in Cana in Galilee. The first was when He changed changing water into wine at a wedding.
- John 4:45 says the Galileans welcomed Jesus because they had seen all He had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast. Jesus' statement in John 4:48, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe," suggests they welcomed Jesus because of what He could do and didn't yet understand who He was.
- When the official begged Jesus to come heal his son, the official expected Jesus would come to his home to heal the boy in person. Jesus didn't answer the official the way he expected. Jesus is challenging the man to have faith that his son will be healed.
  - In the same way, our prayers are often answered in unexpected ways. Sometimes it may be to strengthen our faith but it's always because God has our best in mind.
- After the official asked Jesus to save his son, he headed home without yet knowing if his son would live as Jesus had said. He did know Jesus had heard his request.
  - In the same way, we can boldly take our requests to Jesus and know that whether or not we see the result we were hoping for, God does hear our prayers and will answer in His timing and according to His will.

# THE WORD Presentation *continued*

- When his servants brought the good news about his son's fever lifting, the official asked for the details about the timing. The official realized his son's fever lifted in the same moment that Jesus said he would live.
  - In the same way, we may not see how God is at work in a crisis until the crisis has passed and we look back at the timing.
- Jesus did not need to travel to Capernaum and see the official's son to heal him. Jesus' power is not limited by distance or by physical presence.
- Because Jesus performed this miracle, the official believed in Jesus not only as a miracle worker, but also as his Savior and Lord. The official told everyone in his household about what Jesus had done, and they believed, too.
  - For many people, when they witness the power and goodness of Jesus through His miracles, they are then ready to trust Him as their Lord and Savior. This reminds us how important it is to tell people what we have seen Jesus do in our lives. God can use us to help people believe in Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

The leader or a student reads John 20:30-31.

- The miracles Jesus performed pointed to His identity as God's Son. The signs and wonders He performed convinced many people that Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior God promised to send. Jesus came to save all who would believe in Him, giving His life to pay for their sins and giving them eternal life forever close with God.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## **CHRIST CONNECTION**

### **What is the connection between this story and the Old Testament?**

- Without eternal life, we have only one life, and it ends in death. As believers 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.

The leader or a student reads aloud Psalm 16:9-11.

- David understood that the coming Savior would give us life, even if our physical bodies die.



## **THE BIG QUESTION**

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

### **Why did Jesus perform miracles?**



## 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 John 4:43-54; 20:30-31 silently or aloud.

**What was the first thing Jesus said to the official?**

**What does John 4:50 tell us about the official? Did the official have a choice to make when Jesus told him to “go”? Do you think was hard for the official to leave without taking Jesus with him?**

**What was so important about the exact time that the son’s fever lifted?**

**What did the official and his household do when they realized what Jesus had done?**



**THE BIG QUESTION** Invite students to share their answers.

**Why did Jesus perform miracles?**



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

**Has God ever answered one of your prayers in a way you did not expect?**

**Have you ever experienced good news that helped you trust in God’s goodness?**

**What lesson can we learn from this Gentile official about what faith looks like?**

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to tell others about the miracles of Jesus 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 #17 and Journal Entry #17. **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 #17.

# GOD OF WONDERS

## JOURNAL ENTRY #17

### Saving the Official's Son

John 4:43-54; 20:30-31

## WHAT DOES IT SAY?

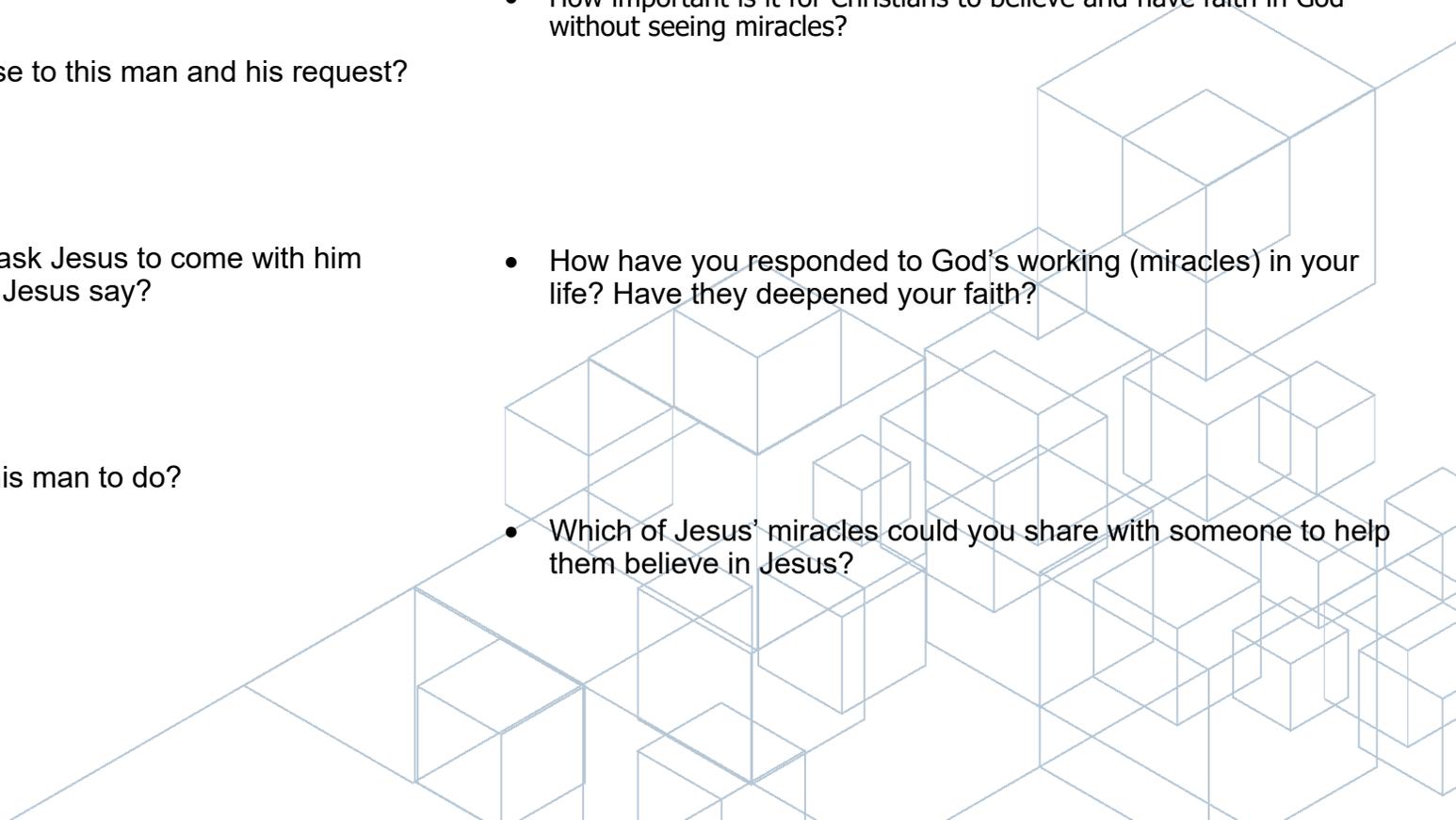
- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read John 4:43-54; 20:30-31.**
- What is Jesus' initial response to this man and his request?
- When the man continues to ask Jesus to come with him and heal his son, what does Jesus say?
- What is Jesus challenging this man to do?

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Did the man demonstrate faith? How?
- What does this miracle show about Jesus' power?

## WHAT CAN I DO?

- How important is it for Christians to believe and have faith in God without seeing miracles?
- How have you responded to God's working (miracles) in your life? Have they deepened your faith?
- Which of Jesus' miracles could you share with someone to help them believe in Jesus?



Action Card #17/GOW

# SAVING THE OFFICIAL'S SON

JOHN 4:43-54; 20:30-31

**JESUS HEALED THE OFFICIAL'S SON  
WITH HIS WORDS ALONE.**

**WE ARE CALLED TO BELIEVE  
IN JESUS AS SAVIOR.**

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