

Lesson 9

The Centurion's Faith

Bible Text: Luke 6:17-19; 7:1-10 A centurion trusts Jesus to heal his servant by His Word.

Bible Truth: I will trust Jesus to help me when I am sick.

Bible Verse: Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

For the Teacher

The centurion recognized that Jesus has power and authority over everything including sickness. He was confident that Jesus could heal his dying servant by His Word, and Jesus marveled at his faith. Any time we are sick, we can humbly come to Jesus, trusting Him to demonstrate his power and help us.

LESSON SEGMENT	TIME	SEGMENT DESCRIPTION	SUPPLIES & PREPARATION
Focus on God's Word	7 min.	Activity: Attention!	Space to march.
Learn God's Word	18 min.	Luke 6:17-19; 7:1-10	Visuals 9a, 9b. Map "Life of Jesus."
Memorize God's Word	8 min.	Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5 Bible Verse Activity: Say it Loud! Say it Soft!	Write the verse in large letters. Hand movements.
Bible Truth	5 min.	I will trust Jesus to help me when I am sick.	Motions.
Connect with God's Word	12 min.	Thinking activity Prayer Response	Lesson Notes.
Act on God's Word	10 min	Craft: 'Trust in the Lord' card	Card, crayons, stickers.
Review God's Word	10 min.	Review Questions Review Activity: What? Who? Why? How? Activity: TV News Broadcast	Divide a poster into 4 sections with a marker. Write one question word in each section. Beanbag (or soft toy). Interview kids about the story.



FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Activity: Attention!

Have you ever watched a military parade and heard the captain shout, "Attention!"? *(Allow responses.)* That's an order given to soldiers, isn't it? Let's pretend for a moment that we are soldiers. I will give the orders, and you try to obey them. Are you ready? *(Demonstrate the action as you give the order.)*

Attention! *(Kids stand straight and salute.)*

March! *(Kids march in place.)*

Right face, march! *(Kids turn to the right and march in place.)*

Left face, march! *(Kids turn to the left and march in place.)*

About face! *(Kids turn in the opposite direction, their backs to you.)*

About face! *(Kids turn around to face you.)*

At ease. *(Kids stand relaxed.)* **And sit down!**

A soldier must learn to obey orders. A good soldier obeys his officers without asking why. When an officer says, "March!" he marches. When an officer says, "Stop!" he stops. He does not ask, "Why should I march? I don't feel like it right now." A soldier trusts that the officer knows best, and he obeys because it is an order.

I want you to listen carefully as I teach the lesson. When you hear me say 'Attention!' everyone stand up and salute.

In today's lesson we learn about a soldier who knew how to take and give orders and how he trusted someone with even greater authority than his to help him. Are you ready to listen? **Attention!** *(Kids stand up and salute.)* **And sit down!**



LEARN GOD'S WORD

(Open your Bible to Luke 7.)

A large crowd of people had come from all over to listen to Jesus teach and to be healed of their diseases. Jesus taught them many wonderful things about God's love. Everyone was trying to touch Jesus, because power was going out from Him and healing them all. And many people who were troubled by evil spirits were set free. When Jesus finished teaching, He went to the town of Capernaum where a centurion lived. *(Point to it on the map.)* A centurion was an army officer who had command over a hundred soldiers in the Roman army. This centurion had a servant he liked very much but now his servant was sick and about to die. *(Display visual 9a.)* When the centurion heard about Jesus healing people, he sent some Jewish leaders to ask Him to come and heal his servant. He believed that Jesus had the power to heal him.

The leaders went to Jesus and told Him about the centurion and his dying servant. They begged Him to do something. "This man deserves to be helped," they told Jesus. "He

really loves our nation and even built us a meeting place (synagogue).” So Jesus went with them.

Jesus was almost at the house, when the centurion sent his friends to meet Jesus and tell Him: “Lord, you don’t need to come to me! I am not good enough for You to come into my house. And I am certainly not worthy to come to You. Just say the word, and my servant will be healed.”

“I understand authority. I have officers who give orders to me, and I have soldiers who take orders from me. I say to one of them, ‘Go!’ and he goes. I say to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes. I can say to my servant, ‘Do this!’ and he will do it. I have faith that if You just give the order, my servant will be healed.”

When Jesus heard this, He was very surprised at the Roman centurion’s faith. He turned to the crowd following Him and said, “I tell you I have not found anyone with this much faith, even in Israel!”

Then the centurion’s friends went back to the house. Guess what they found when they got there? *(Allow responses.)* The servant who had been so sick was completely healed! *(Display visual 9b.)* Jesus had healed him by His Word just like the centurion believed. He had healed the servant without even having to go and see him!

The centurion was an important man, but that wasn’t why Jesus healed his servant. Jesus is the Son of God. He has power and authority over everything, including sickness and the centurion had faith in Jesus. He trusted in Jesus’ power and authority, and Jesus healed his servant.



MEMORIZE GOD’S WORD

Bible Verse: Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5

When we are sick, we can ask Jesus for help. We can trust the Lord just like the centurion did. God can do wonderful things for us like He did for the centurion. God loves us and cares about us.

Attention! *(Have the kids stand up and salute.)* At ease!

Let’s look at our Bible verse for today: Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5
(Display the verse and repeat it with the kids.)

What should we do when we are sick? *(Allow responses.)*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5

What should we do when we have a problem? *(Allow responses.)*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5

Bible Verse Activity: Say it Loud! Say it Soft!

Have the kids follow your voice and hand commands as they say the Bible verse.

When you say, “Volume up!” and raise your hand, they say the verse louder.

When you say, "Volume down!" and lower your hand, they say the verse more quietly.



BIBLE TRUTH

Bible Truth: I will trust Jesus to help me when I am sick.

**The centurion trusted Jesus to heal his servant. That's our Bible Truth for this lesson.
Attention! Stand up! Everyone say the Bible Truth.**

Have the kids say the Bible Truth using hand movements.

I - Point to yourself with both hands.

will trust - Clasp both hands together.

Jesus - Touch the middle finger of the right hand to the palm of the left hand. Touch the middle finger of the left hand to the palm of the right hand.

to help me - Make a fist and place it on the open palm of the other hand.

when I am sick - Make a thumbs down sign.



CONNECT WITH GOD'S WORD

We can trust Jesus to help us when we are sick. In what other situations can we trust Jesus?

Have the kids give you examples of when we should trust Jesus:

- We can trust Him to forgive our sins.
- We can trust Him to lead our lives.
- We can trust Him to take care of us.
- We can trust Him to always be with us.

Do you think there are any problems too big for Jesus? *(Allow responses.)*

Is there anything too little to ask God to help us with? *(Allow responses.)*

Have the kids share about a time when they saw God help them or help their family or friends.

Any time we are in need, we can ask God in faith, and He will help us. God already knows all our needs, but He still wants us to turn to Him and ask Him. It reminds us that we need God. He wants us to trust Him. He hears our prayers.

Prayer Response

Ask the kids to think of someone they know who is sick or has some kind of problem.

Encourage the kids to spend some time praying for those people. Remind them that Jesus is in control over everything. He determines when and how someone is healed. Close by thanking God that they can trust Him in all their situations.



Leading a Child to Jesus: As the Holy Spirit leads, explain the plan of salvation and pray with those who want to trust in Jesus as their Savior. (See Teacher's Guide p.3 Leading a Child to Jesus.)

ACT ON GOD'S WORD

When his servant was sick, the centurion trusted Jesus to help him. The centurion had faith in the power and authority of Jesus, the Son of God, to heal his servant.

One way we show that we trust Jesus is to turn to Him and pray for others who need help. Jesus cares about all people. We can bring our friends to Him in prayer and trust Jesus will help them.

Give an example from your own life of when you prayed for someone who was sick or hurt and Jesus helped them.

Encourage the kids this week to pray for someone who is sick. Pray that they will trust Jesus to help them.

Craft: 'Trust in the Lord' Card

Have the kids write the Bible verse "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" on a card and decorate it.

Encourage the kids to place it somewhere at home to remind them to trust in God and to pray for someone.

Option: *They could also give their card as a gift to the person they are praying for.*



REVIEW GOD'S WORD

Review Questions

1. What city did Jesus enter when He finished teaching the people? (Capernaum)
2. Who wanted Jesus' help? (A centurion; a Roman soldier)
3. What did the centurion want Jesus to do? (Come and heal his servant.)
4. Who did the centurion send to ask Jesus to come? (Some Jewish leaders)
5. How did the centurion help the Jews? (He built a meeting place for them.)
6. Why did the Jewish leaders want Jesus to help the centurion? (Because he loved the Jews.)
7. Who met Jesus with a message when He was on his way to the centurion's house? (The centurion's friends)
8. What did the centurion's message say? (The centurion said he was not good enough to have Jesus come to his house. Jesus only needed to say a word and his servant would be healed.)

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9. What did Jesus say about the centurion's faith? (He hadn't seen such great faith in Israel.)
10. What happened to the centurion's servant? (He was completely healed.)
11. Why should we trust Jesus when we are sick or have a need? (Jesus has power and authority over all things.)
12. How do you think the servant felt after he was healed? (Happy, thankful, amazed)

Review Activity: What? Who? Why? How?

*Draw lines marking four sections on a large poster. In each section write one of these words: **What? Who? Why? How?** Lay the poster on the floor. Have the kids throw a beanbag (or soft toy) onto the poster and answer a review question that starts with the question word. If the beanbag lands on a section where all the questions have been already answered, have the child throw it again until it lands on one of the other sections.*

(To make a bean bag, sew two squares of material together to make a small bag. Leave a gap and half fill the bag with dried beans. Sew the bag closed.)

Activity: TV News Broadcast

Assign parts to the kids, (the centurion, the servant, the Jewish leaders, the messengers). Review the story by playing the part of a reporter. Interview each person about the miracle that took place and his part in it. Use a prop as a microphone as you interview the kids.