

June 24, 2018

Morning Overview

Lesson: *The Faith of a Centurion*

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises, despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins.

This week our children learn about the faith of the centurion. In this story, we see a well-respected and powerful officer come to Jesus for help. It is a scandal however. The officer is a Roman – a foreigner and enemy of Israel – and his position affords him confidence and pride. But the officer knows the limits of his power, and comes to Jesus to beg for help for his servant – not himself. Jesus is amazed by this man’s faith in Him and heals the servant from afar. The story is worth noting for two aspects and how they relate to the Christian life. One is humility, we must be willing to humble ourselves by seeing our own unworthiness before the Lord. And second is faith, the object of our faith – Jesus – is who saves us, not the “strength” or magnitude of our faith. Faith is a big concept to introduce, but so critical to understanding our relationship to the Lord.

Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Story: Vos Story Bible, Chapter 21 (Pages 286-287); The Beginner’s Bible, Pages 336-341.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5’s – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom’s: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s/4’s – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom’s: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

Craft: The Soldier

Supplies: Card stock soldier, craft stick, tape, verse sticker

- Instructions:**
1. Tape soldier to craft stick.
 2. Place verse sticker on back of craft stick.



Relay of the Day: See Below

Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

- **Cherub Church** for 3’s (Classroom’s: 168, 166, 165) – 11:40-11:55

Craft: Shield

Supplies: Foam board shield, foil, paint brush, tape

- Instructions:**
1. Wrap foil around the shield shape (secure with tape on back if needed).
 2. Make design on shield be gently pressing on the foil with the back end of the paint brush.



Relay of the Day: Just Say the Word!

Let the children take turns being the centurion and the sick servant. Let one of the teachers be Jesus. Have one servant pretend to be sick by laying down and acting like they feel out of energy. Ask the centurion to simply run across the room and say to the teacher, "Jesus, JUST SAY THE WORD and my servant will be healed!" to which Jesus (the teacher replies), "GO! Let it be done JUST AS YOU BELIEVED it would!" At that exact time the servant pops up to their feet. The centurion runs back and they celebrate. Let the servant become the centurion and the next in line be the sick servant until everyone has had a turn.

Story: *The Faith of a Centurion*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, imagine, if you can, that someone very important needs your help; it could be your parents, a famous athlete, or a policeman. What would you do? Would you help them? In our story today, a very important army officer comes to Jesus for help. The army officer sees Jesus as more important than he is, let's find out what Jesus says to him.
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps his promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected to for the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus was in Capernaum when a Roman army officer comes to him for help. The officer was part of the Roman army; he was a foreigner and an enemy of the Jewish people.
- The officer's servant was hurt and needed healing.
- The army officer shows us two specific characteristics that should be evident for any follower of Jesus: humility and faith. The officer did not believe He was that important and He believed that Jesus could heal his servant.
- Jesus is amazed by the officer's faith in His power to heal. He heals the servant by simply speaking.
- Jesus tells the crowd that the army officer is someone who shows true faith and will be part of God's kingdom.

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, imagine, if you can, that someone very important needs your help; it could be your parents, a famous athlete, or a policeman. What would you do? Would you help them? In our story today, a very important army officer comes to Jesus for help. The army officer sees Jesus as more important than he is, let's find out what Jesus says to him.

The Faith of the Centurion

Jesus went to the city of Capernaum. Jesus spent lots of time in Capernaum caring for people and teaching. When he entered the city, an army officer came to Jesus and begged for help. The army officer was not just an army officer, but a Roman one. The Romans were a fierce army that ruled a large kingdom. Part of the Roman Empire was where Jesus and the Jewish people lived. The Jews did not like the Roman's very much either. The Roman's had the best soldiers, and this army officer that came to Jesus was very important.

The Roman army officer said to Jesus, "Lord, my servant is at home in bed. He can't move his body and is in much pain." The officer showed great humility in coming to Jesus. He was a mighty and important person in the best army in the world. But that did not matter, he needed help and the help was not for himself but for his hurt servant. The Roman army officer did not care, he knew that Jesus could help him.

Jesus said to the officer, "I will go and heal him."

The officer replied to Jesus, "Lord, I am not good enough for you to come into my house." This great and mighty officer did not think that he was worthy to have Jesus in his home. The officer went on to say to Jesus, "All you need to do is command that my servant be healed, and he will be healed." The officer realized that Jesus was all-powerful and believed that Jesus could do anything! All Jesus would need to do is speak.

The officer said, "I myself am a man under the authority of other men. And I have soldiers under my command. I tell one soldier, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell another soldier, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and my servant obeys me." The officer knew that all Jesus had to do was say the word or command, and the officer's servant would be healed. The officer showed great faith in Jesus. Faith is when we believe that what God says He's going to do, He does it! And God will do it whether we believe Him a little bit or a lot; faith isn't about us, it's about God. The army officer believed that no matter what, Jesus could do anything.

When Jesus heard the army officer's words, he was amazed. He said to those who were with him, "I tell you the truth. This man has more faith than any other person I have found, even in Israel." Jesus saw the great faith the man had in Him. Then Jesus said to the officer, "Go home. Your servant will be healed just as you believed he would." As the officer turned and headed home, the Bible tells that at the same time his servant was healed.

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What city was Jesus in?
- Who came to Jesus?
- Why was the Roman Army officer coming to Jesus?
- How important was the Roman army officer?
- What did Jesus promise to do for the servant?
- What did the Roman army officer have in Jesus?
- What is faith?
- Why was Jesus amazed at the Roman army officer's faith?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

Scripture Memory for Summer:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

Catechism Questions (1-20)