

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 7

Jesus and the Centurion's Servant

Jesus and the Centurion's Servant

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

Objective This lesson will show the students what faith is and what it looks like through the story of Jesus healing the centurion's servant.

Key Verses

Luke 7:1-10—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 8:5-13 (Parallel Passage)

Hebrews 11

Hebrews 13:5; 1 Corinthians 10:13

Memory Verse - Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, 1 John 1:9.

Go over to the light switch and ask the class what they think will happen when they flick the switch. Then turn the lights off and on to show them. Ask how they knew the lights would go off and on. Point out that they can't see the wires or have any proof that the switch is connected. However, we are usually willing to believe that if we flick the switch, the light will go out.

This is a good analogy for faith: we might not be able to see God working, but faith knows that He will.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Today's story features a centurion, which means he was a commander of 100 soldiers in the Roman army. The Romans had conquered the Jewish people, so many of the Jews hated the Romans. However, this centurion was different. One day, one of his servants became sick and was close to death, so he sent for Jesus to see if He could come and heal his servant. The Jewish elders who found Jesus spoke highly of the centurion, telling Jesus of how he built a synagogue for the Jews. However, as Jesus approached the house, the centurion sent friends to stop Jesus and tell Him how unworthy he was to have the Lord come under his roof. Instead, he told Jesus simply to say the word and his servant would be healed. He explained that he understood Jesus' authority because he also had authority. He could tell his soldiers where to go and what to do, and they would obey. The same way, he believed that all Jesus had to do was say the word and the servant would recover. Jesus was amazed when He heard these things. He told all those around Him that He had not seen this kind of faith from anyone else, not even from His chosen people, the Jews. He then said that because of his faith, the centurion's servant would be healed. The friends returned to the house and discovered that the servant was healthy, just like Jesus said. In fact, Matthew tells us that the servant was healed the second Jesus said so.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

The hero in our story today is a surprising one. He was not one of Jesus' disciples, or a faithful Jew, or even a Jew at all. In fact, quite the opposite, he was a hated Roman soldier. When a Jew from Jesus' day had heard this story, they would have expected the centurion to be the villain. However, this was no ordinary centurion. He clearly had a love for God's people, as is evidenced by the fact that he funded the building of their synagogue. It is this most unlikely of heroes that Jesus commends for having the most extraordinary faith He had witnessed in His earthly ministry.

This man's faith is stunning for a few reasons. First and most obviously, the very fact that he believed Jesus could heal his dying servant took great faith. However, more than that, he believed that Jesus could heal the servant without even being in the same room as him, simply by speaking. In addition, he believed in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, even though he was not a Jew. Considering all this, it is no wonder Jesus had such high praise for his faith.

LOOK (Continued)

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that faith is trusting that what God says is true, even if we can't see it (all of Hebrews 11 unpacks the idea of what faith is and what it looks like). The centurion trusted that Jesus could heal his servant even if to man this seemed impossible. This is how faith works for us today as well. We exercise faith when we trust that the things the Bible says are true.

In faith, we believe that Jesus really did die on the cross, that He really did pay for our sins, and that we really can be forgiven. We can trust by faith that everything the Bible says is true and that all the stories in the Bible really happened. Our faith also helps us to believe the promises in God's Word. When the Bible says Jesus will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), faith allows us to trust that promise. When we read in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that God will provide a way of escape from every temptation, our faith enables us to believe that. It may be difficult to believe some of these things are true, but that is when it becomes most important to use our faith. When we trust in God and the promises He gives us in His Word, we will never be let down.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

TOOK

As a class, memorize Hebrews 11:1.

Review the lesson by asking the class to describe what made the faith of the centurion so marvelous. Review what faith is and what it looks like in our lives.

Pray: Thank the Lord for all the promises He gives us in Scripture. Ask Him to give us faith to trust in those promises.

Parent Question: What is faith and what does it look like in our lives?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 7:1-10 by David Guzik

The Sick Healed, the Dead Raised, the Sinner Forgiven

A. A centurion's servant is healed.

1. ([Luk 7:1-5](#)) The centurion's request.

Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

a. **A certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die:** This centurion seems to be a devout, kind, humble man-yet, all the same he is a *centurion*-not only a Gentile, but a Roman soldier, and an instrument of Israel's oppression.

i. The centurion had an unusual attitude towards his slave. Under Roman law, a master had the right to kill his slave, and it was expected that he would do so if the slave became ill or injured to the point where he could not work.

b. **He sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant:** Apparently, the centurion did not think himself worthy of a personal meeting with Jesus, and perhaps thought Jesus would not *want* to meet with a Gentile like himself, so he sent Jewish leaders as his representatives to Jesus.

i. We don't need to have the centurion's fear today. We don't need to send a representative to Jesus-we can come to Him ourselves.

2. ([Luk 7:6-8](#)) The centurion tells Jesus that He need not come, because he knows that Jesus need not be present to do His work.

Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

a. **Then Jesus went with them:** Jesus did not hesitate to go to the centurion's house, and we half wish the centurion would have allowed Him. Would Jesus have entered a Gentile's house? It was completely against Jewish custom, but not against God's law.

b. **But say the word, and my servant will be healed:** The centurion fully understands that Jesus' healing power was not some sort of magic trick that required the magician's presence. Instead he knew Jesus had true *authority*, and can command things to be done and completed outside His immediate presence.

i. The centurion shows great faith in Jesus' *word*. He understands that Jesus can heal with His word just as easily as with a touch.

ii. **For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me:** The centurion also knew about the military chain of command, and how the orders of one in authority were unquestioningly obeyed-he sees that Jesus has *at least* that much authority.

iii. "He believes that, just as he, a man with authority, is obeyed by his subordinates, just so surely will the authoritative utterance of Christ be fulfilled even though He is not present where the sick person is." (Geldenhuys)

c. The centurion also shows great sensitivity to Jesus, in that he wants to spare Jesus the awkward challenge of whether or not to enter a Gentile's house-as well as the time and trouble of travel.

i. He didn't know Jesus well enough to know that He would feel awkward in the least; but his *consideration* of Jesus in this situation is impressive.

3. ([Luk 7:9-10](#)) Jesus heals the servant and marvels at the centurion's faith.

When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

a. **He marveled at him:** We see that Jesus only **marveled** on a few occasions. He does so here, at the faith of the centurion, and also at the unbelief of His own people ([Mark 6:6](#)). Jesus can be amazed at either our *faith* or our *unbelief*.

b. The centurion knew that Jesus had true power from God, not magic that had to be used according to some ritualistic formula.