

THE CENTURION OF CAPERNAUM

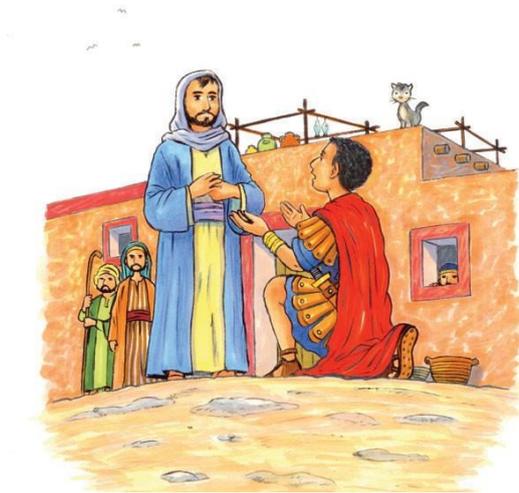
Matthew 8:5-13



Contents

Message	Jesus is pleased with those who are humble and have faith in Him.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Jesus helped the centurion because he deeply believed in Jesus' power.■ Jesus answers the prayers of those who are humble and faithful.
Bible Text	Matthew 8:5–13

The Centurion of Capernaum



When Jesus was going into Capernaum, a centurion came up to Him and said, “Lord, my servant is ill at home. He is in great pain.”

Jesus replied, “I will come and heal him.”

The centurion said to Jesus “Lord, I am not worthy enough for You to come to my house. Just say the word and my servant will be healed.

I have officers who give orders to me, and I have soldiers who take orders from me. If I say to one of them, ‘Go!’ then he goes. If I say to another soldier, ‘Come here!’ then he comes. Whatever I tell my servants to do, they do it.”

When Jesus heard this He was amazed and said to those who were following Him, “Truly I have to say that I have never found anyone with this much faith, even in Israel! But I say unto you many will come from east and west to enjoy the feast in the kingdom of heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the dark; they will cry and grit their teeth in pain.”

Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go home. Everything will happen just as you believed it would.” When the centurion went home his servant was healed.

The Centurion of Capernaum

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress. Write the important quotations/citations on a note before the lesson.

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What is a centurion? (A centurion was a Roman army officer. He had great power.)
- What does he do when his servant is ill? (He asks Jesus for His help. He trusts him.)
- What does he say to Jesus? ("Just say the word and my servant will be healed".)
- How does Jesus react? (He is very astonished about the strong faith of this man.)

Have the children repeat...

- Jesus helped the centurion because he deeply believed in Jesus' power.
- Jesus answers the prayers of those who are humble and faithful.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- How did the centurion come to Jesus?
(He was humble; he believed completely in the healing power of Jesus.)
- Share one of your own personal experiences, where God helped when a solution seemed impossible.
- Nothing should stop us from believing that God will help us.

Repeat the Message
Jesus is pleased with those who are humble and have faith
in Him.