

Adventures with GOD!

THE POWERFUL CENTURION, A HELPER WITH FAITH (B.3.SPRING.8)

Biblical Reference	Luke 7:1-10
Key Verse	Luke 7:7
Key Concept	In faith, I can approach Jesus with my needs.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe who the centurion was and what his life was like 2. Describe in their own words, what Jesus admired about the centurion 3. Retell the story to their parents/guardians.

Life Application

God's character has been revealed throughout the centuries as: merciful, gracious, all-powerful, great, strong, powerful, and miraculous. God has done miracles in the lives of people. God asks us to be faithful, trusting that God will do what God has promised. During this lesson and even afterwards as children are at home, they will be able to reflect on the faith of a man, which led to another man being healed.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	Game	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, time machine	10 minutes
Key Verse		5 minutes
Craft	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Luke 7:1-10 twice and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Introduction: It's time to do some review. Spend some time reviewing what children have learned from the book of Luke. This can be done in the form of a fishing game. Before class, gather a sheet, a rope to hang the sheet, a fishing pole (made from a stick and a string with a clothing pin), and cut-out fish with the questions written on them. Use simple questions to review the people, stories, and lessons they learned over the past few weeks.

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When it is time for the game, find a place to hang the sheet that allows ample space at the top for children to put their fishing pole over. Ask for a volunteer who will step behind the sheet and help you place the “fish” on the “fishing pole” when each child puts it over the sheet. You will probably need a chair for the child to stand on, unless you can hang the sheet low enough for children to put the fishing pole over without standing on a chair. Give each child a turn; if children answer the question correctly on their “fish”, then they can receive a prize (have small things available like stickers or bookmarks). You could also make this a team game.

Bible Exploration: You may choose to use the time machine this week and the sample dialogue found pages 5-6. Today’s visitor will be a soldier, a centurion, the story is based on Luke 7:1-10. When the soldier appears, have him act like he’s leading soldiers in a march. Then begin the dialogue. After the dialogue, ask how they would describe the centurion and why this story is included in the Gospel of Luke. What was it about this man that made him noteworthy? What does he teach us? What happened as a result of this person’s faith? What are some situations where we need to show faith in God? Are there particular people who we can be praying for who have specific needs that we can bring in faith before God? Lead them in a time of intercessory prayer, praying for specific people and specific needs.

Key Verse: Write the Key Verse on a board or a large piece of paper. Read it all together and then ask a volunteer to come and erase one of the words. Repeat the verse together. Then invite another volunteer to come up and erase another word. Repeat the verse together. Continue this process of erasing one word at a time until the entire verse is erased and children are saying it by memory.

Craft: On page 7, you will find a drawing of a centurion. Children will have the opportunity to color, decorate, and cut out the centurion. Give children markers, crayons, sequins, pieces of fabric or tissue paper, ribbons, etc. When they have finished decorating him they can cut him out and glue him onto cardstock, where they can also put the Key Verse for the story today.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories

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of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Questions for the centurion

Centurion: Oh, my! Where am I? Where are my soldiers?

Question #1 – It's alright, you are in _____. We just wanted to meet you and ask you some questions. Then you can go back to your soldiers. Are you in the army? Are you a soldier?

Centurion: I am in the army. I am a centurion. I have 100 soldiers under my care, and I'm under the commission of Caesar, the Emperor of Rome.

Question #2 – And where are you commissioned?

Centurion: Here, in Galilee. Wait. I'm not in Galilee. They aren't going to be happy that I left my post. People depend on me to protect them.

Question #3 – Well if you work in Galilee maybe you know someone we've been studying about, Jesus of Nazareth. Do you know him?

Centurion: Jesus of Nazareth?! (He kneels down). He is the Christ, the Lord.

Question #4 – We are his followers, too. Tell us about him. What is he like?

Centurion: You are followers of Jesus? You are citizens in his kingdom? Serving the king of kings? He deserves all of our loyalty. I actually have never met Jesus face to face. But, still I have surrendered my life to him. I am in constant service to him.

Question #5 – What have you done in service to Jesus?

Centurion: The better question is, what has Jesus done for me? I have been learning about the Yahweh (God) from the Jewish religious leaders. They would come and instruct me in the law and teach me about the God of Israel. I couldn't go with them to the synagogue because I am a Roman. They have certain laws about who can worship God in the synagogue. I was so thankful for the ways they taught me that I decided to help them build a synagogue. It was then I learned that they are waiting for the Messiah; this Messiah would be the savior of the world. It was then that I learned about Jesus.



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Question #6 – So how did you meet Jesus?

Centurion: I told you, I never actually met him. I have my responsibilities and I can't leave my post. I heard about John the Baptist who was telling everyone to get ready because the Messiah was coming. And then I heard about Jesus, who was doing miracles in God's name. People were saying that he is the Messiah. It was then that I knew I needed his help. You see, I had a very faithful servant who was sick and dying. I knew that if anyone could save him, this Jesus could. So I asked my friends if they would approach Jesus on my behalf and ask him to save my servant.

Question #7 – And what happened then?

Centurion: They went before Jesus and presented him with my petition. As a centurion, I am used to giving orders and having people follow them. They told him that I did not consider myself worthy to have him come to my house, but that I believed that if he said my servant would be healed, he would be. Jesus praised me for my faith and sent my friends back to my house. And we witnessed a miracle. My servant was healed. Jesus heard my request.

Question #8 – So you were convinced that you could have faith in Jesus even if you couldn't see him face to face?

Centurion: Yes! I am a living witness to what faith can do. Jesus wants us to have faith that he is the Messiah. Even though you can't see him you, too, can have faith in him. Oh excuse me, I have to return to my troops. I've been gone too long! Please forgive me. (Centurion leaves).

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CRAFT

