

Life of Christ

The Army soldier's helper

Matthew 8:5-13

Younger Verse

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

Older Verse

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

Lesson Goals

To understand what was so amazing about the army officer (had faith and was humble)
Share how God can help us with our problems

Welcome Time

Have you ever met someone who bragged about everything? The opposite of someone who is proud, is someone who is humble. That means that a person does not brag about something they've done, but instead is quiet and gives God the credit. Let's listen to see who is humble in our lesson today.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

One time Jesus walked to a town called Capernaum. This town was ruled by a king. He lived so far away that he sent an army to make sure the people obeyed the laws.

One officer in the army liked the people of Capernaum and did good things for them. This officer had a helper who was very sick. He loved this man and wanted to help him. The officer had heard that Jesus could heal people, so he went to Jesus and begged Him to help the his friend.

He told Jesus that the helper was suffering so much and needed help.

Jesus told him that He would go to his house.

The man told Jesus that he did not feel important enough for Him to come to his home. Instead of coming to his house, the man suggested that Jesus only had to say the word and the helper would be healed.

To show that he knew that this was possible, the officer explained to Jesus that when he gave orders to people, things got done. He would tell one soldier to "go" and he would go, and he would tell another to "come" and he would come. The officer knew that Jesus had more power than he did, so he knew that Jesus only had to say the word and the helper would be well. Jesus was amazed and told all His friends that this man really believed and understood.

Jesus was so glad to find someone who really believed in Him. He was amazed in how much the man trusted in Him.

When the man got back to his house, the helper was healed, just as Jesus said!

Jesus was amazed because the man had faith in what God could do. The man knew that Jesus had power and could use it and do many miracles. Faith is a word that is hard to understand. It's like trying to explain something you can't see—like the wind. A person can see what happens when it's windy (everything blows or is swept away) but they cannot see the "wind." They know it's there but there is no way to see it.

That's the kind of faith we must have in Jesus. We can't see Him but we know He's there and He lives in Heaven. We have to trust and believe that He is real and the Bible is true just like the army man believed that Jesus could do a miracle from far away. Would you like to trust Jesus? If you would, please talk to me during snack time about it.

The army man was also humble. That means that he was not proud or boastful about who he was or the authority he had over others. He told Jesus that he did not deserve for Him to come into his home. Instead of being proud and demanding that Jesus come, he was humble and quietly asked Jesus to help. Jesus was amazed at the army man's humility and faith. Jesus wants us to have the same attitude. We should be humble and have faith in Him.

Learning Activities

Many kids learn in many different ways. We have lots of hands-on learning activities this week to help the kids remember the lesson and apply it to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

Have the kids draw their hand and write parts of the verse on each finger so that they can remember it.

Prayer Time

Take time to pray for friends and loved ones. Encourage the children to invite their friends to Bible study next week.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share some yummy snacks today. You may want to call them "rations" like they do in the army! Be sensitive to those who may want to ask Jesus into their lives.

Planning for March 16th
Peter's Mother in law
Matthew 8:14-17

Preschool Lesson
for
The Army soldier's helper

(Bring little green army men to act out the story.)

One time Jesus walked to a town (make walking noises). This town was ruled by a king. He lived so far away that he sent an army to make sure the people obeyed the laws (show them the little green army men).

One leader (hold up one of the army men) in the army liked the people of the town and did good things for them. This man had a helper who was very sick. He loved this man and wanted to help him. The army leader had heard that Jesus could heal people, so he went to Jesus and begged Him to help the man.

So Jesus told him that He would go to his house. The man said that instead of coming to his house, Jesus only had to say the word and the helper would be well.

To show that he knew that this was possible, the army man told Jesus that when he gave orders to people, things got done. He would tell one soldier to "go" and he would go, and he would tell another to "come" and he would come. The man knew that Jesus had more power than he did, so he knew that Jesus only had to say the word and the servant would be well. Jesus was amazed and told all His friends that this man really believed and understood.

When the man finally got back to his home, he saw the helper--he was well! Jesus had healed him. (Have everyone raise their hands and celebrate)

The army leader believed and his helper got well. Jesus made him well! Do you believe in Jesus? He loves you and cares for you.

Sing, "Jesus loves me."

Hands-on Activities
for
The Army soldier's helper

If the teacher has a camouflage outfit, it might be fun to wear it today for the story!

Create a paper hat helmet or use foil!

Make swords out of aluminum foil. Scrunch and shape foil into a long sword.

Act out the story (use the helmet and sword if you make them).

Make a shield out of a paper plate covered in foil.