

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for children

Life of Christ

The Army soldier's helper Luke 7:1-10

Younger Verse

If you believe...then you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Older Verse

If you say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe in your heart that God raised Christ from death, then you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Welcome Time

Have you ever wished that you could just say a word and something would happen. For example, if you wanted the TV on, just say "On," and it automatically comes on. That would be fun if we could do that. Do you think Jesus could do something like that? Let's see in today's lesson.

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 sent men to Jesus and begged Him to help his friend get well.

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

So, Jesus walked with them to his house.

When they were not far away, the man sent a note to Jesus telling Him 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 could say "do it" and things would get done. 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

Lesson Goals

To understand what was so amazing about the army officer (had faith and was humble)
See how praying to God can help us with our problems
Share an example of faith and humility

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 men got back to the 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 air. A person can breathe air but they cannot see the "air." 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 do not need to brag or be proud. We should be humble and believe.

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.

Play a version of a memory game (or concentration). Write a word or two on index cards. Do

Memory Verse Activities

this again so that you have 2 sets of identical cards. Now turn the cards over and let the kids try to find the two identical cards to reveal the verse.

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 May 23rd
A woman gives Jesus perfume
Luke 7:36-50

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 sent men to Jesus and begged Him to help the man get well.

So Jesus told them that He would go to the house. On the way, the man sent a note 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 men finally got back to his home, they 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

Bring a helium balloon. Share how we cannot see helium but we know that it is light and holds a balloon in the air. Share how faith is like the helium. We have to believe everything that God tells us even though we may not understand and see everything. That's what faith means.

Bring a CD with you. Ask the kids what it is. Ask them why they think that the certain music is on the CD. Most will say because of the label or etching on the back. Share how we cannot be for certain until the CD is placed in a boom box. Share how they had to have "faith" to believe that the music was REALLY on the CD. Share how it takes faith to believe in Jesus too.

Another example to explain faith is using invisible ink. Bring lemon juice, paper, toothpicks and an iron. Let the kids dip a toothpick in the lemon juice and write a note on the paper. Let the message dry. Now, use the heat from the iron to reveal the message! Share how faith is similar to the invisible ink. It is there but we cannot see it until it is revealed. We must believe (have faith) in Jesus even though we have never seen Him in the flesh. God shows us in many ways how He is real and cares for us very much!

Let the kids discuss the differences between being humble and being proud. You may pick some famous characters that exhibit one of these qualities. Help the kids see that God wants us to be humble, not proud or showy.

Here's some ideas around the "army" theme:

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.