

# Life of Christ

## The Official's Son Lives

John 4:43-54

### Younger Verse

The man believed . . . Jesus. John 4:50 (NASB)

### Older Verse

Jesus said to him, "Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off. John 4:50 (NASB)

### Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

What have you learned over the last few weeks from the book of John? (Allow your students to share what they remember, helping and adding to, as necessary. Answers should resemble the following.) We have learned that Jesus is God and that He was baptized by John. God sent John to tell everyone about Jesus and to help them to be ready to turn to Jesus. We learned that Jesus went to a wedding in the town of Cana and changed water into wine. After that, Jesus went down to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. It was there that He threw people out of the church because they were buying and selling, making the church a place of business, instead of worshipping God. Then, on His way back to Galilee, Jesus had to go through Samaria. In Samaria, Jesus met a woman at a well. She believed in Him and trusted in Him when He told her everything she had done. Many from her town believed also.

Jesus stayed in Samaria two days and then continued the trip He began earlier. When He arrived in Galilee, the people there welcomed Him and were excited to see Him. While Jesus was in the area of Galilee, He returned to Cana. In Cana, a very important man came to see Him. This man, an official, worked for the king\* and had left his home in Capernaum, almost 22 miles away, to find Jesus. He had heard that Jesus was back in the area. The official's son was very sick. He was so sick that he was about to die. The official begged Jesus to come to his home. He wanted Jesus to heal his son, to make him better.

Jesus answered the man by saying to him and everyone around them, "You people just will not believe if you don't see signs!" Well, if you can remember from our other stories in John, we have learned that Jesus does not always answer the way we expect Him to. That's because Jesus does not think the way we think. He is not interested *only* in what we can see, He is interested in the things that will last forever. So, instead of *just* being concerned about an illness, Jesus was concerned that the people needed to see spectacu-

\*See John 4:49 in the Amplified Bible.

### Lesson Goals

Introduce and elaborate on the concept of faith.  
Discuss the importance of studying and knowing God's Word, the Bible.  
Discuss the importance of trust in and obedience to God's commands.

-lar things in order to believe in Him. He wanted them to have faith. Faith is trusting, even when we don't understand or can't see how it will work. Jesus wanted the people to trust what God had said and see that He, Jesus, was sent from God and is God's Son. He wanted that to be enough for them.

The official, though, was only thinking about his little child. He asked Jesus, again, to come and heal him. He wanted Jesus to come before his son died. And Jesus told him, "Go; your son lives." Jesus would not be going with him. The official had to make a decision. Did he believe that Jesus was powerful enough to heal his son, even from far away, when he could not see the results? Or, would he ask Jesus a bunch of questions and make excuses and not believe? Would the official have faith in Jesus? The Bible tells us that "the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off." Just like that! The official believed and he headed home. On the way home, his servants met him with good news - his son was well! When he heard this, the official asked them what time it had been when his son got better and they told him that it had been around 1:00 in the afternoon. Guess what? The Bible tells us that the official knew that at that exact time is when Jesus had told him, "Go; your son lives!" How amazing is that! Just by Jesus saying it, it was so. The Bible tells us that not only did the official trust in Jesus, but so did his whole family!

Well, how about you? Is faith easy? Is it easy to do something when it doesn't make sense or if you don't know how it will turn out? Do you think it was easy for the official to leave Jesus in Cana and head back home? Not really. But it is very important that we obey, immediately, when we know what Jesus wants us to do. If we wait (if the official had waited), if we try to figure out how it is all going to work - we are not believing and we have disobeyed! God wants us to trust him like the official did. And sometimes, many times, God wants us to trust Him without seeing spectacular things first. The first way that we can do that is to trust God's word and believe that He loved us so much, that He sent His one and only Son to die for us and make a way for us to have a relationship with Him, and one day to live with Him forever. Have you believed in Him - even though you can't see Him? Another way to trust God is to obey His word, the Bible. Can you obey something you've never heard about or read? NO! So, we are responsible for reading the Bible ourselves and for being at Bible Study so that we can hear it explained. Then, we should follow God obediently.

**Memory Verse  
Activities**

Create hand motions to help your students remember the Bible verse. You may even want to have your students suggest motions for each word or phrase of the verse. Then, practice, practice, practice!

**Prayer Time**

Pray for your students, and allow them to pray, that they will not wait for spectacular signs and wonders to believe in Jesus. It is spectacular enough that the God who created the world, sent us His one and only Son!

**Preparing for Next Week**

Lesson 13  
A Lame Man is Healed  
John 5:1-47

# Preschool Lesson

## Jesus Helps Us When We Are Sick!

Sing to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?” (“Frere Jacques”)

Jesus helps us, Jesus helps us,  
When we're sick, When we're sick.  
Jesus helped a boy  
Who was sick with fever.  
He's all well. He's all well.

We read in the Bible today about a little boy who was sick. This little boy had a bad fever and was in bed. The little boy's father left home and walked a long way, twenty-two miles! He walked this far because he heard that Jesus was back in town and he knew that Jesus had the power to make people well.

The little boy's father wanted Jesus to come with him, to make his son well again. Jesus didn't go. Jesus told the father to return home; his son was well. So the little boy's father believed Jesus and turned around and left, headed for home. But before he even arrived home, his servants met him to say that his son was better! He had gotten better exactly when Jesus told his father that he was well! Jesus helped this little boy when he was sick, and he wasn't even in the same room or house or town with the little boy.

And Jesus can help you, too. Can you see Jesus? I can't either, but that doesn't mean He isn't real. Jesus is real and Jesus helps us today just as He helped the little boy with the fever.

Pray: “Jesus, thank you for the Bible where we can read about you. Thank you, for making the little boy well. And thank you for helping me when I am sick.”

# Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Sing “The B-I-B-L-E.” Talk about how we should study to know God’s word. Once we know what God’s word says, that should be enough for us. We don’t need spectacular visions or miracles to convince us of God. We have a spectacular God!
- Sing songs about faith. Talk about what it means to believe without seeing and explain that the amount of faith is not as important as having faith, even as small as a grain of mustard.
- Guide one, or all, of your students on a “Blind Faith Walk.” The student will be blind-folded and guided with verbal instructions through your room and around obstacles without bumping into anything. After the walk, ask questions of the one who was blind-folded; “Did you trust me?” “Did you ever try to walk on your own?” “How did you keep from walking into something? Talk about how following your instructions is an example of how we need to follow God’s instructions in the Bible. He will lead and guide us. He is trustworthy.
- Liken faith to something your students have heard of and studied about but never seen. For example, the Statue of Liberty. Ask students: Have you ever seen the Statue of Liberty? Does it really exist? How do you know it exists? Then talk about how God exists, even though He can’t be seen and that the world around us makes it clear that there is a God (Romans 1:20).
- Make a F-A-I-T-H acrostic, using only words that describe and explain faith.  
For example:
  - F - For God so loved the world . . .
  - A - always trust
  - I - if you can’t see
  - T - things you
  - H - hope for