Level 1 (Ages 2-5)

Lesson 16

Healing (Miracles)

The Centurion - The Boss of Men

Jesus - The Boss of Sickness

Target: Students will know that Jesus heals.

Text: Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10

Memory Verse: Jesus said, I will come and heal him. Mathew 8:7

To the Teacher: The Centurion (Roman ruler over a Centuria, which is (one hundred) was regarded by the Jews as a “worthy” man and important to them because of his great love and generosity to them, having built them a synagogue. He had heard of Jesus’ power over sickness and sought healing for his dying servant. When he made known the problem of his ailing servant, Jesus desired to go immediately to heal him. The Centurion made known his position of authority and how he himself gave orders continually that were carried out. The Centurion asked Jesus to speak the word only and his servant would be healed. The Centurion knew that Jesus had authority over sickness and that he was the only hope for his servant. Jesus commended the Centurion’s great faith to all his followers and healed his servant. Our young students must know that Jesus has power over sickness as our creator. When we pray for healing or for others’ healing, Jesus heals. His power is not bound by physical location, but our faith and prayer move him to heal, just as the Centurion demonstrated.

**TEACHER MAY ARRANGE ACTIVITIES AS PREFERRED AND TIME ALLOWS. PLACE THE BIBLE STORY AND TESTIMONY TIME (WHICH GO TOGETHER) FIRST IF YOU MAY RUN OUT OF TIME TO PRESENT IT NEAR THE END OF THE LESSON.**

If students are reluctant to go to class and separate from parents, endeavor to distract them with a small food item, the activity paper (coloring), a small toy or stuffed animal that may help persuade them to stay. If a student is persistent about not wanting to separate from a parent, let them be with the parent and hope for better success next time.

Welcome: Always greet students by name and tell them how happy you are they are in Sunday School. You may have a “Welcome Song” that is sung consistently. Such as:

*I’m so glad you came to Sunday School*

*I’m so glad you came to Sunday School*

*We’ll nod our heads, shake your hand*

*Say hello to you – Hello (spoken)*

*I’m so glad you came to Sunday School*

***Items for Discovery:*** *doll, makeshift doll bed with cover, small cloth for doll’s head, aspirin bottle, plastic bandages, thermometer, a water bottle with a straw in it, a Bible*

Discovery (Gather interest in the Centurion’s problem): Have some items that one would use to help a sick person (tissue, a bottle of aspirin, a thermometer, a doll in a makeshift bed with a blanket (towel) over it and a small cloth on dolls head. Have a Bible nearby to search for answers from God’s word for the sick and dying (servant).

Let students know your helper is sick. Tell them you have given him/her medicine, put a cool cloth on his head, helped him drink water but he is hot with a fever and not able to get up or even talk. He has been so sick for days and is not getting better. He always helps you and is so special to you and you cannot let her die. He helps you every day and you NEED him. Ask students what to do and respond to their ideas. If students suggest praying, respond that, indeed, we need to talk to Jesus about this. Consult the word of God. **There is a story in the Bible about a helper (servant) who was sick. The Bible has the answer for us. Let’s find it.** Locate Luke 7:2 and read the verse and relate the Bible circumstance to the problem with “your” servant.

Tell students we are going to let the servant rest while we learn more about what the Bible tells us.

***Play Simon Says but substitute the word Simon with The Centurion.***

The Centurion Says: Tell students you are all going to play Simon Says but we will say “The Centurion Says.” Practice saying The Centurion a few times and tell them that means, The Boss of soldiers, like the captain. If students can say the word Centurion, it will reinforce the word and meaning when you mention it in the Bible story telling. Be the first one to be “it” and just do one or two commands and let a student be “it.” If students need more examples of commands, teacher can be “it” again. As you model motions say: The Centurion Says: march in place, pick up (blocks or other small item you have placed on the floor for the game), sit in a chair, stand up, walk across the room, reach up in the air, touch your toes, kneel down, say “Yes, Sir,” pretend you are climbing a hill or a mountain, come to me, shake a friend’s hand, clap your hands, take a block to a friend, sing the B-I-B-L-E (or other song they know), etc. Let capable students be “it.”

Singing Time: Sing the B-I-B-L-E, Faith, Faith, Faith, Only Believe, Waymaker, Healer, Have Faith (in God) – this is an echo song which helps students with words.

Prayer: Encourage students to get in a position of prayer, whether sitting, kneeling, or standing and ask if they are thinking of Jesus when they talk to him. He is listening and wants to hear your voice talk to him. We are going to ask Jesus to help us believe in him and his power to help us. Say: **Dear Jesus, we love you and we ask you to help us to believe you and know you love us and want to heal us when we are sick. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.**

***Healthy snack items, juice, bendy straws, cups***

Snack: Call out “The Centurion Says go to your seat at the table.” Assist students in being seated and serve students a healthy snack (refried beans with chips, shredded cheese, fruit pieces, cheese and crackers, peanut butter with apple slices or celery pieces, etc.) with juice with bendy straws and let them know that if you are sick with a cold you should drink a lot but the servant in the Bible story was more sick than just having a cold and coughing. He could not even move his body, and someone had to help him eat. Can you help your friend by holding his juice to his mouth so he can drink through a straw?

Students may continue to eat snacks (eating contentedly in their seats) while you do Testimony Time, the next activity.

***Finger puppet characters (see attachment) cut out and taped to fit teacher fingers.***

Testimony Time: Select one finger puppet character to place on finger and “testify” about what Jesus did for him/her. Puppets are double sided for telling what the problem was and one side that shows how Jesus made them whole. Make the finger puppet come to life by moving finger joint a bit as if to be talking and look at the puppet, always addressing it as a person and change your voice appropriately for each character. Continue to add finger puppet characters to teacher hand until all fingers have a character.

Ask (*while looking at the puppets as though they are real people)*: **What did Jesus do for you?**

Finger Puppets *(in unison)*: **Jesus healed me.**

Record with phone the finger puppets saying, “Jesus healed me” to use the clip for the Bible Story.

Once the snack is over and cleaned up, draw students attention back to the sick servant and emphasize that he is worse from the sickness.

***Bible Story finger puppets – The Centurion and Jesus***

Bible Story: With Bible open to the story text in Mathew 8:5-10 show students the text where the story is found and place Bible beside you on a chair.

Say: **The Centurion, the Boss of soldiers, heard about Jesus healing sick people**.

*Place Centurion finger puppet on finger and play the clip of the Bible character finger puppets saying, “Jesus healed me.”*

*Place Jesus puppet on finger of other hand.*

Centurion *(to Jesus)*:  **Lord, my servant is sick and dying.**

Jesus *(to Centurion):*  **I will come and heal him.**

Centurion*(to Jesus):* **Lord, you don’t have to come to my house. I am not good enough for you to come to my house. But I am a man who says words and others do what I say. I am the boss of soldiers, but I cannot heal them. I know you only have to say the word and my servant will be healed.** The Centurion knew Jesus was the boss of sicknessand he could make his servant well.

Jesus *(to Centurion)*: **You believe and have greater faith than all of God’s people.** The Centurion had faith that Jesus power could reach anywhere.

Say *(show verse 13 in Bible)*: **Because he believed that Jesus heals,** **The Centurion’s servant was healed that same hour.**

*Remove cloth from sick (doll) servant, sit it up, lift its hands, and give praise to God.*

*Have a time of praising God for his healing power. Give God glory, in all earnest, shout “Hallelujah,” raise your hands and jump, skip and bow down to the floor, waving your arms, giving God praise with your voice. Encourage them to join in.*

Prayer and Testimonies: Encourage students’ faith in Jesus to heal by praying for others who need to be healed. If no one comes to you or students’ minds for which to pray, pray with students to remember Jesus heals when they or someone is sick. Let students testify about getting prayed for and Jesus healing them. Teacher could testify of a personal healing. Jesus healed the Centurion’s servant by speaking the word only. When we pray, Jesus can heal because we ask, no matter where we are.

Memory Verse: Matthew 8:7

**Jesus said,** **I will come and heal him.**

Let each student hold the Jesus finger puppet and say, “Jesus said, I will come and heal him.”

Reward each student for saying the Bible verse and keep each student’s record posted in classroom. Cut out the open Bible template with black and white paper and let students glue a typed version of the verse in each student’s “Bible.”

Take Home Craft

Have students color the Centurion’s and Jesus’ robe on the Jesus puppet as their take home activity. Tape it to a rolled-up piece of paper, like a tube, and help them practice the Bible story.

Reinforcing Activities:

Story Review Questions:

In our Bible story:

Who was sick?

Who was the boss of others?

What did the Centurion tell Jesus?

Did Jesus go into the Centurion’s house?

What did Jesus do for the Centurion?

Who healed the Centurion’s servant?

Ask and Receive Game:

Seat students with chairs in a circle. Model how to play game by sitting in circle with them. There is one free seat next to the teacher and teacher asks one student to come and sit by her. The student responds and the student next to the new free seat asks another student to come and sit by him. Continue the game for a few minutes and tell students that is how it works when we believe. You know your friend will come to sit by you when you ask and, when you ask Jesus to heal, you *believe* he will, and he will do it.

Make a List:

To reinforce Jesus’ healing power, gather the finger puppets from the Testimony Time activity and ask students what Jesus did for each Bible character. Make a list on a whiteboard of their names and what Jesus did for them.

**Items needed for When God Speaks: spray bottle, fan**

When God Speaks:

The Centurion said to Jesus, “Speak the word only” and his servant would be healed. It was the spoken word of God that created the first light when He said, “Let there be light.” Turn the light off and tell students that there was no light until God said, “LET THERE BE LIGHT.” Turn the light on in response to students command. Students will want to repeat the activity a few times.

Tell students Jesus and his disciples were in a boat and a storm began to toss the boat around and the disciples were afraid. They went to Jesus who was asleep in back of the boat. When Jesus awoke and saw the storm he said, “PEACE, BE STILL.” And the wind and the rain stopped. To create a storm turn fan on, flash the light on and off, and spray water in the room from spray bottle. Practice a signal for students to know when to say, “Peace be still” and the storm must stop immediately. The wind, rain, light, and sickness all obey Jesus when he speaks.

**Items for God’s Power is Everywhere: gallon container ¾ filled with water, pint jar, paper with message written “God’s power is EVERYWHERE”**

God is Everywhere: Tell students that Jesus healed the Centurion’s servant without even seeing him. God’s power is everywhere. We can’t see his power with our eyes, but he is everywhere. Show empty jar. Do you see anything in this jar? (No). Do you think if I put this paper (crumpled up) in the bottom of this jar and put it in the bucket of water that something will keep the paper dry? Turn the jar upside down, lower into bucket of water vertically (not tipped, or the paper will get wet) and dunk the jar to show the paper looking submerged. Pull jar out of water and take dry paper out of the jar. See, it is dry. There was something between the paper and the water. It is air. Just like air is everywhere, God’s power is everywhere.

Dismissal: At dismissal time make sure students have their Jesus and the Centurion puppets. If time, pray with students before they are picked up by parents or taken to parents. Pray that they will believe Jesus for healing and receive it.